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TODAY:  
ECONOMY  
TECHNOLOGY  
OPINION  
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## Bundesbank Joins Feud Over EU Central Banker

*France, 'a Minority of One,' Refuses to Yield; Germany Hints at a Rise in Its Interest Rates*



Raymond Barre, euro believer.

### Euro Prophet Sees Europe Approaching A Golden Age

By Anne Swardson  
*Washington Post Service*

PARIS — He is 74 now, and Raymond Barre, a former prime minister of France, sees Europe on the threshold of a golden age.

Dawn comes this weekend, when the leaders of Europe take the first concrete steps toward abandoning their national currencies in favor of one, the euro.

The process will not be completed until 2002, but it will take on an irreversible nature beginning Saturday in Brussels. Eleven countries are expected to sign up on that day.

If Mr. Barre takes deep pleasure in the historic nature of this step, he has a right: He was one of the first to suggest a single currency for Europe. The fact that he made his proposal 30 years ago merely indicates, he said, the inevitable nature of this marriage of money.

"Everything that has gone before means all the pieces are now coming together," Mr. Barre said. "Yes, there will be fights, there will be tension. But we simply can't do otherwise. To fail would be a catastrophe of worldwide, historic dimensions."

He is not exaggerating. Nothing of this scale has been attempted in the history of international finance. The euro will kill off the proud German mark, the elegant French franc, the plentiful Italian lira, the Dutch guilder, the Spanish peseta, the parallel Belgian and Luxembourg francs, the Austrian schilling, the Portuguese escudo, the Irish pound and the Finnish markka — all in the name of the greater economic and political good.

In the process, its supporters hope, Europe will gain the economic — and perhaps ultimately political — dynamism it long has lacked. A trading power larger than the United States, Europe has played a far smaller role on the world stage. The euro, it is hoped, will allow Europe to achieve global-power status commensurate with its demographic, industrial and creative powers. The movement to-

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By John Schmid  
and Alan Friedman  
*International Herald Tribune*

FRANKFURT — On the eve of the European Union summit meeting that will set final terms for the 11-nation launch of the euro, the Bundesbank sent a clear signal Wednesday that it was upset with the continuing feud over the choice of Europe's first central bank president.

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, warned against the "politicizing of the euro" and said that the German central bank on Thursday would debate "all issues that are important for the stability of the euro." Financial markets, increasingly nervous about the unresolved European Central Bank dispute, are speculating that the Bundesbank may use the meeting Thursday to reassess its position on the euro.

The battle over the European bank presidency — which pits the French nominee, Jean-Claude Trichet, against the consensus candidate, Wim Duisenberg of the Netherlands — showed no signs of abating Wednesday.

From Tokyo, President Jacques Chirac renewed his insistence that "France has a candidate and supports its candidate."

Reinout Jochimsen, a member of the Bundesbank's council, lashed out at France. "I thought the Maastricht treaty was about European interests and not just separate national interests," he said in reference to the treaty that governs the move to the single currency.

Commenting on behind-the-scenes efforts to persuade Mr. Duisenberg to accept a split of the eight-year term, Mr. Jochimsen said the reputation of the new central bank already had been "damaged" by the political dispute.

"This is to me outrageous," he said. "Everyone should know that the European Central Bank is a European supranational institution. It is for Europe. It is a European currency. And its credibility and functionality and future depend on stability, trust, independence and confidence."

In a remark that economists said could indicate that the German central bank plans to raise interest rates in the near future, Mr. Tietmeyer also said, "From next week on, we at the Bundesbank must take into account the entire new European currency area."

Vinayak Persaud, director of currency research at J.P. Morgan & Co., said he expected the Bundesbank to raise German short-term rates, now at 3.3 percent, toward 4 percent by the end of the year.

"Until now, Europe's interest rate policy has been set largely by the Bundesbank," he said. "But from May

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### To Our Readers

Because of the May Day holiday, the International Herald Tribune will not appear on Friday. Normal printing and distribution resume Saturday with the weekend edition, including a Special Report on Europe and the euro.

### AGENDA

#### Belgrade Hit With Sanctions Over Kosovo

ROME (Reuters) — The six-nation Contact Group agreed Wednesday to introduce fresh sanctions against Yugoslavia over the Kosovo crisis, the head of the French delegation said.

The Contact Group today has decided to introduce new measures — especially on the freezing

of assets initially and then, in a second phase, measures concerning investments," said Jacques Blot.

Russia consented in the thrust of measures but had expressed reservations over fresh penalties against Belgrade, he said. The group also includes the United States, Germany, Britain and Italy.

An official said that the wide-ranging push against the Kurdish Workers Party in the remote mountainous region began four days ago. The state-run Anatolian News Agency said that up to 40,000 troops were involved.

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Newsstand Prices

The Dollar	
New York	Wednesday @ 4 P.M. previous close
DM	1.7958 1.794
Pound	1.6703 1.6675
Yen	132.355 132.195
FF	6.02 6.0116
The Dow	
Wednesday close	previous close
+62.56	8951.52 8898.96
S&P 500	
change	Wednesday @ 4 P.M. previous close
+9.51	1094.62 1085.11

Andorra.....		10.00 FF Lebanon.....	LL 3,000
Amstel.....	12.50 FF Morocco.....	16 Dh	
Cameroun.....	1.600 CFA Qatar.....	10.00 CR	
Egypt.....	£2.55 Réunion.....	12.50 FF	
France.....	10.00 CFA Saudi Arabia.....	10 SR	
Gabor.....	1.100 CFA Senegal.....	1.100 CFA	
Italy.....	2,800 Lire Spain.....	225 Ptas	
Ivory Coast.....	1,250 CFA Tunisia.....	1,250 Dn	
Jordan.....	1,250 JD U.A.E.....	10.00 Dh	
Kuwait.....	700 Fils U.S. Mil. (E.U.).....	\$1.20	

Newsstand Prices

By Brian Knowlton	
<i>International Herald Tribune</i>	
WASHINGTON —	Drawing rhetorical battle lines that may reach throughout this election year, the White House promised again Wednesday to veto a bill that would link payment of UN dues to restrictions on abortions abroad, while Republican leaders warned that such a veto would severely damage cooperation on major foreign policy issues.
AT&T	The bill will be vetoed "as soon as we get it," said Michael McCurry, the White House spokesman. "They ought to just send it down here so that we can send it back to them in the same day's mail."
	The Senate, splitting nearly on party lines, voted, 51

to 49, on Tuesday to approve a bill to reorganize the State Department and pay \$926 million in delinquent dues to the United Nations.

But the measure includes a provision, attached by House conservatives, that would bar any of the money from being used, even indirectly, to support international family-planning organizations that advocate abortion rights.

The administration has militated strongly for payment of the dues, withheld originally by the Reagan administration to protest what was seen as a violation of unresponsive UN bureaucracy. It portrayed the vote Tuesday as a dangerously defiant act by congressional Republicans that could undermine U.S. leadership.

Mr. McCurry said the bill would be quickly vetoed

and accused Republicans of seeking to "poison the debate."

He urged them to pass a substitute bill including the UN money but without the abortion clause.

Republican leaders, however, said Wednesday that they would not send the bill to Mr. Clinton immediately, hoping to allow time for Europeans and other major U.S. allies, resentful of the American delinquency, to press Mr. Clinton to sign the bill.

"We want to let the pressure build up," said a Republican Senate aide, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Seeking to further increase the pressure, Republican

## In China, Albright Hails 'Partnership' But Tensions Over Arms Exports And Rights Remain, She Says

By Steven Erlanger  
*New York Times Service*

BEIJING — The United States and China "have moved well down the road toward building a constructive, strategic partnership," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Wednesday as she began two days of high-level meetings designed to produce results when President Bill Clinton comes here for a summit meeting around June 24.

While she emphasized Beijing's more cooperative relationship with Washington in a joint news conference with the new Chinese foreign minister, Tang Jiaxuan, she said the two countries "still have some differences," especially over human rights, the situation of Tibet, and Chinese exports of sensitive chemical and missile technologies to Iran and Pakistan.

Those differences also include smaller issues like the treatment of the surviving leadership of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, senior U.S. officials said Wednesday.

The Chinese have thus far suggested by the United States that the existing war crimes tribunal dealing with Bosnia be expanded by the United Nations Security Council to include war crimes by the Khmer Rouge.

Instead, Beijing wants the new Cambodian government to decide on the war crimes problem after elections expected in late July, the U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Previously, before the death of the Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, U.S. officials said only that China was studying the issue.

Tibet was also an important subject on Wednesday, the officials said. In Mrs. Albright's five hours of meetings and meals with Mr. Tang and Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen, the former foreign minister.

But Washington still has no idea of the whereabouts of the 9-year-old Panchen Lama, and China still refuses to allow even nongovernmental outsiders any access to him, a U.S. official said Wednesday.

In 1996, Beijing said it was taking the Panchen Lama into "protective custody at the request of his parents."

On Thursday, Mrs. Albright was to meet with China's most senior officials, President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji. U.S. officials said they could provide little detail of the results of Mrs. Albright's talks Wednesday, since the same issues were to be taken up at a higher level Thursday.

Foreign Minister Tang, who took office last month, met Mrs. Albright on Wednesday for the first time.

He agreed with her that "progress has been made as compared to the past" — an oblique reference to difficult U.S.-Chinese relations since 1989, when Chinese troops cracked down on demonstrators around Tiananmen Square in 1989, killing more than 1,000 people.

Mr. Tang said China was trying "to build a country according to law" and shared American concerns about controlling dangerous weapons.

After the ban, some employers dis-

appeared while others were unable to provide refunds. Salespeople were denied commissions.

Many of those who were duped by the sales operations took to the streets, where they smashed shops and cars.

Police have arrested about 10 rioters.

In Pingtan, a town in Hunan, the police rescued six employers of sales companies after they had been held hos-

## France Curbs High Official In Ship Scandal

By Craig R. Whitney  
*New York Times Service*

PARIS — The fifth-ranking official of France was placed under examination, one step short of indictment, on Wednesday in an investigation of multimillion-dollar payments to a lobbyist woman friend who tried to get him to drop the Foreign Ministry's objections to the sale of six French-built warships to Taiwan in 1991.

Roland Dumas, 75, a former foreign minister and a prominent Socialist who is now president of the Constitutional Council, was questioned Wednesday afternoon by two investigating magistrates at a country home near Bordeaux, where he has been recovering from hip surgery.

Later, officials announced that the magistrate had placed him under investigation for alleged embezzlement and complicity in misappropriation of funds. He will have to post bail and his foreign travel will be limited.

The Constitutional Council rules on the constitutionality of laws and arbitrates disputes between the country's legislative and executive branches. Members of the conservative opposition called on Mr. Dumas to resign, as conservative government ministers had to do after they came under the cloud of corruption in numerous earlier scandals.

Mr. Dumas, foreign minister when the sale of six frigates to Taiwan was first proposed in 1989, opposed the deal because he said he feared it would damage

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Chen Kaige, a major Chinese film director, showing Madeleine Albright and Ambassador James Sasser around a Beijing studio on Wednesday.

## Year 2000 Computer Bug: U.S. Predicts Hefty Price

Firms to Spend at Least \$50 Billion, Fed Says</

No Rush to the Grave in Oregon / But Morphine Use Rises and Hospital Deaths Fall

## Assisted-Suicide Law Alters the Culture of Dying

By William Claiborne  
*Washington Post Service*

**P**ORTLAND, Oregon — Ray Frank, a 56-year-old computer programmer, was suffering so horribly from terminal kidney and lung cancer in November that he asked a close friend to buy him a shotgun.

Although Oregon voters had reaffirmed the first physician-assisted suicide law in the United States, Mr. Frank's doctor refused to prescribe a lethal overdose of barbiturates.

"I told him to give me three days to find a doctor who would do it," said the friend, Noranne Clayton. "and if I couldn't find one, I'd buy a shotgun."

Ms. Clayton found an oncologist willing to talk to Mr. Frank about helping him to end his life under the terms of the new law, and his demeanor changed overnight.

"He was so relieved and calm and happy I couldn't believe it," she said. "He stopped talking about shooting himself."

Mr. Frank died naturally on Thanksgiving, before obtaining a prescription for a fatal dose. But his final days dealing with the medical profession — and the knowledge that a way out was possible — were emblematic of rapid changes in Oregon's quest for gentler deaths of terminally ill patients.

Although only two cases of doctors helping terminally ill patients kill themselves have become known since the physician-assisted suicide law took effect six months ago, the measure has had a profound effect on end-of-life care. With advocates and opponents of assisted death in other states watching the Oregon experience closely, it also could have an impact on the way doctors and families deal with dying patients across the nation.

Two bitterly debated referendums and a long court battle that preceded the Nov. 4 implementation of the Death With Dignity state law have helped sensitize physicians to the need for more advanced planning for comfort of the dying and have radically altered the form of their treatment, health care experts say.

Oregon leads all states in medical use of morphine, which many physicians had resisted as a pain management narcotic. Since 1994, when voters approved the first assisted-suicide referendum, the state has increased its medical use of morphine by more than 70 percent, moving from 11th to first in morphine distribution to retail drugstores.

Deaths in acute-care hospitals have fallen dramatically, with more than 60 percent of people who die doing so at home or in nursing homes, according to the Oregon Health Division. Nearly a third of Oregonians who die end their lives under hospice care, up from 21 percent in 1994, according to the Oregon Hospice Association. Preliminary data for 1997 show an estimated 9,000 patients died in hospices, pushing the state to third in the nation.

Hospices, which traditionally have opposed physician-assisted suicide, are adopt-



Ray Frank, the first person to apply for a physician-assisted suicide under the law, died naturally in November. "His mind was at ease," his doctor said, "just knowing the option was going to be there."

ing a more tolerant view of the practice. All 57 Oregon hospices now accept patients who say they intend to end their lives with drugs prescribed by doctors under the new law and a few allow employees to be present at suicides, said Ann Jackson, executive director of the Hospice Association.

In addition, health experts say, there is a growing use of the state's innovative Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment, a standardized form that allows the elderly and ill to reject intrusive medical interventions ranging from tube feeding to the use of ventilators.

"There is no question there have been dramatic improvements in end-of-life care for dying patients, and these improvements are directly attributable to passage of the law," said Barbara Coombs Lee, a nurse and lawyer who helped write the Death With Dignity Act and is director of the Compassion in Dying Federation, a national group with headquarters here that counsels terminally ill patients on assisted suicide.

"It really is a shift of power from the physician to the patient. If I get rehired by one doctor, I can go to another, because there are more physicians willing to do it now that it is legal and out in the open," Ms. Coombs Lee said.

Voters first passed the Death With Dignity Act in 1994, but the state legislature put the measure back on the ballot last year, asking voters to repeal it. The repeal effort

was defeated by 60 percent to 40 percent.

The law allows doctors to prescribe fatal doses of barbiturates and other drugs to adults of sound mind who are thought to have less than six months to live. It requires oral and written requests, consulting opinions by other physicians, a 15-day waiting period and notification of pharmacists and state health authorities.

A fatal drug is then prescribed and the patient may ingest it orally at his or her discretion, with or without the doctor present. It remains illegal for physicians to administer lethal injections.

During public debate over the ethics of assisted suicide, opponents argued that there would be an epidemic of suicides by patients with treatable diseases and that Oregon would become a mecca for people who wanted aid in ending their lives, even though the law applies only to state residents. At the behest of congressional opponents of the law, the Drug Enforcement Administration gave notice that doctors who prescribed lethal overdoses could risk sanctions. Attorney General Janet Reno is expected to rule soon on the validity of that warning.

But only two cases of assisted suicide, both last month, have come to light.

The Compassion in Dying advocacy group made public the death of an 80-year-old woman suffering from terminal breast cancer under hospice care. She died 30 minutes after taking a lethal dose of bar-

biturates. Also, the Oregonian newspaper reported that the relatives of another terminally ill patient said the person had died peacefully in a physician-assisted suicide. Details about both persons have been withheld in accordance with the privacy provisions of the death with dignity law.

Grant Higginson, deputy administrator of the Oregon Health Division, said the law requires that a statistical account of assisted suicides be issued at the end of the year. But because of the "acute sensitivity" of the issue, he said, his department will issue an interim report when the number reaches 10.

Mr. Higginson said the small number of publicly disclosed physician-assisted deaths was not surprising.

"This is still new ground, and it is not clear what the federal government will do about sanctions," he said. "Even though it is legal, physicians are justifiably cautious."

Ms. Coombs Lee said her organization had confirmed 15 "serious" requests by patients seeking to use the new law, including four who died of natural causes during the verification procedure, seven whose requests were being processed and the 80-year-old woman who had breast cancer. Ms. Coombs Lee said three patients had been deemed ineligible for assisted suicide.

"I never expected there to be a flood of requests," she said. "I always expected that those who completed their requests would take the medications infrequently."

Since 1993, she added, when Compassion in Dying began referring terminally ill patients — in Oregon, Washington state and Northern California — to doctors willing to covertly prescribe lethal doses of drugs, less than 10 percent of those who were prescribed the drugs actually took them.

"It's like a security blanket for them," Ms. Coombs Lee said. "Just knowing it is available gives them peace of mind about their final moments and the courage to go on living a while longer."

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## Senate Rejects Cap On New NATO Cost Arms Aid to 3 Candidates at Issue

By Eric Schmitt  
*New York Times Service*

servicemen missing from past wars of Cold War incidents.

Expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization requires the approval of two-thirds of the Senate, but amending the resolution needs only a simple majority. Senate critics of expansion, conceding they face an uphill battle to defeat the resolution, say their strategy is to win approval of some amendments. A final vote is likely this week.

Few issues have raised more concern among senators about enlarging the alliance than the cost of expansion, the issue is confusing because cost estimates are all over the map, from \$125 billion to \$1.5 billion depending on the assumptions. The Pentagon insists the best guess is \$1.5 billion over 10 years, with Washington's share at \$400 million.

There has been a lot of misinformation about the costs, some of it understandable," Defense Secretary William Cohen said Monday. Mr. Harkin argued that the administration and NATO expansion supporters were guilty of false advertising when they said enlargement would cost \$400 million over a decade. That figure covers only so-called "common costs" shared among all members, like maintaining NATO's headquarters buildings in Brussels.

It does not cover the various subsidies that the U.S. government pays for when it sells or transfers weapons to foreign countries. A recent study by the World Policy Institute found that government subsidies represented \$7.8 billion of \$12 billion in U.S. arms exports in 1996.

## Clinton Picks Diplomat To Be Envoy to Mexico

By Philip Sherron  
*New York Times Service*

low the nomination to come to a Senate vote.

Mr. Helms, Republican of North Carolina, accused Mr. Weld, also a Republican, of being too lenient on drug abuse. He said that Mr. Weld's support for legalizing marijuana for medicinal use and for a needle-exchange program for addicts made him an inappropriate choice as ambassador to a nation with serious drug-trafficking problems.

The president's first choice, William Weld, former governor of Massachusetts, withdrew his name last year after it became clear that the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms, would never al-

low the nomination to come to a Senate vote.

Mr. Helms, Republican of North Carolina, accused Mr. Weld, also a Republican, of being too lenient on drug abuse. He said that Mr. Weld's support for legalizing marijuana for medicinal use and for a needle-exchange program for addicts made him an inappropriate choice as ambassador to a nation with serious drug-trafficking problems.

Mr. Davidow, who is now the assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, won Mr. Helms's backing in 1996 when he was nominated for his current job.

## WEATHER



Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.

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Today High Low W Cpt Cpt

Almaty 34.93 29.73 24.78 33.75 29.75

Bali 36.97 28.75 24.78 34.95 28.75

Bangkok 33.91 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Beijing 33.91 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Calcutta 38.10 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Caracas 31.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Cebu 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Chennai 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Colombo 31.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Ho Chi Minh 34.93 29.73 24.78 33.75 29.75

Hong Kong 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Macau 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Mandalay 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Manila 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Mecca 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Myanmar 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Nagoya 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Phnom Penh 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Port Moresby 32.98 24.75 21.75 32.95 24.75

Rangoon 32.98 24.

## THE AMERICAS

## Castro Rejects Chretien's Plea For Release Of Prisoners

Reuters

HAVANA — Fidel Castro has rebuffed an appeal for political changes and prisoner releases made by Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada during a visit to the island.

Immediately after seeing Mr. Chretien off at the airport, Mr. Castro declared Tuesday: "We are not going to change. We are going to continue defending our cause and our socialism."

Mr. Castro showed no sign of agreeing to Mr. Chretien's personal appeal for the release of four leading dissidents jailed on the island.

"We have not made any type of commitment in relation to that," Mr. Castro said.

He added that Cuba was not the only nation with prisoners who have committed crimes against the state, saying there were "hundreds" of such inmates in Europe.

Mr. Chretien arrived in Cuba on Sunday wanting to stress both Ottawa's independence from Washington's policy of isolating Cuba and its belief that



Mr. Chretien being escorted to his plane by Mr. Castro on Tuesday.

*AP Wirephoto/Reuters*

"constructive engagement" with the island could bring change.

On the plane back to Ottawa on Tuesday afternoon, reporters asked Mr. Chretien whether he thought his mission had failed because there were few concrete results.

"I take one step at a time," Mr. Chretien said, adding that there was a possibility the two leaders might have

further talks in Geneva next month on the sidelines of celebrations marking international organizations.

Earlier, Mr. Chretien suggested Washington might have a long wait if it hopes Mr. Castro, 71, will soon disappear. "Will the Americans await the departure of Mr. Castro? I don't know. He appeared to me in top form physically."

## Starr to Plead Case For Muffler Chain

By Ruth Marcus  
and Susan Schmidt  
*Washington Post Service*

WASHINGTON — Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, has decided to proceed with plans to argue a major appeals court case next month, rejecting criticism even from some allies that he should be devoting himself entirely to the investigation of President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Starr has maintained his private law practice at Kirkland & Ellis, where he has earned more than \$1 million annually, throughout his four-year tenure as a special prosecutor. His supporters argue that Mr. Starr, whose private work is allowed under the independent counsel statute, works more than full-time at the counsel job and can juggle his dual roles.

Mr. Starr agreed months ago to handle the court case set to be argued Tuesday. It is a dispute between the Meineke discount muffler chain and its franchisees who claim the

company defrauded them of millions of dollars that were supposed to go for advertising. Mr. Starr is representing Meineke and is asking the court to overturn a \$400 million judgment against the company.

The White House has seized on Mr. Starr's plan to argue the case at a time when he is working to complete a report to Congress about his investigation of Mr. Clinton.

The opposing lawyer in the case, Charles Cooper, has said he will devote about 100 hours to preparing for the argument.

James Kennedy, a White House spokesman, said Tuesday: "It appears Mr. Starr is exercising a new privilege — the privilege to earn \$1 million a year for himself while spending \$40 million of taxpayer money on an endless investigation."

A spokesman for Mr. Starr, Charles Bakaly, said that "this matter is a long-standing commitment, and he honors his commitments to both his public and private clients."

## AMERICAN TOPICS

### Las Vegas Hotels Keep Going 'Boom'

When the famed Aladdin Hotel-Casino was flattened earlier this week in a carefully engineered implosion, it was the fifth such Las Vegas icon to be leveled in five years, all of them succumbing to the recent mania for mega-resorts.

The Dunes was imploded in October 1993, making way for the \$1.6 billion Bellagio resort, scheduled to open this fall. The Landmark was razed in November 1995 to make room for a parking garage. The venerable Sands was destroyed a year later and the \$2 billion Venetian resort is rising in its place. The Hacienda met its end in a 1996 New Year's Eve spectacle, and the Mandalay Bay resort will open on that site next spring.

The old Aladdin, with 1,100 rooms, is being replaced by the 2,600-room Aladdin Hotel and Casino, a second hotel-casino with 1,000 rooms as a joint venture of Aladdin Gaming Ltd. and Planet Hollywood plus a shopping complex. Total cost: \$1.3 billion.

Since 1989, a total of 10 mega-resorts — each with 2,500 rooms or more and costing from \$80 million to \$2 billion — have been built, and five more are planned. The city is gaining 26,000 hotel rooms in just three years, a 25 percent increase that will push the total past 125,000.

"We have an incredible market here," said Richard Goeglein, president of Aladdin Gaming. "Las Vegas is a tremendous people-generator," drawing perhaps 30 million visitors a year.

The city can trace that "generating" capacity to 1931, when the legalization of gambling in Nevada brought life to what had been a sleepy way station on the Union Pacific route. The first big casino opened in Las Vegas in 1946.

### Short Takes

A special Cinco de Mayo stamp, commemorating the Mexican victory over French troops on May 5, 1862, was released this month, the first stamp to be issued jointly by the United States and Mexico. The stamp, bearing the image of two colorfully costumed dancers, is part of a new series of stamps commemorating such holiday celebrations as Hanukkah and the African-American holiday Kwanzaa. In Los Angeles, the stamp made its debut Sunday during a Cinco de Mayo celebration — a bit early — that drew 200,000 Latino celebrants.

Many physicians complain about the rise in managed health care, which they say causes them to work harder and interferes with the doctor-patient relationship, according to an American Medical Association survey. But while an AMA survey two years ago found that doctors' incomes had declined, as managed health care affected their billing — dropping by 4 percent from the previous survey, to \$182,000 — the latest study finds they have climbed back significantly — to \$199,000.

A quarter-century after the oil crisis of the early 1970s created a wood-heat boom in northern New England, enthusiasm for wood has fallen. In New Hampshire, less than 9 percent of people surveyed by the state energy office said they still heat their homes with wood. In the winter of 1983-84, a total of 30 percent relied on wood.

Brian Knowlton

## POLITICAL NOTES

### Partisan War of Words Heats Up

WASHINGTON — Intensifying a war of words with Republicans, the Clinton administration suggested Wednesday that it could not do business with the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, until "he comes back to his senses."

Mr. Gingrich, meanwhile, accused the administration of impeding a congressional investigation of campaign finance irregularities and said Democrats had engaged in a "cover-up" on behalf of the White House.

The sharp words at the White House and on Capitol Hill were an escalation of partisan rhetoric as the administration clashed with Republican leaders over tobacco legislation, child care, abortion restrictions and education initiatives.

The White House press secretary, Michael McCurry, responded to Mr. Gingrich saying: "We're going to have to do business with him sooner or later. And as soon as he comes back to his senses, we'll do business." (AP)

**Retooling a Rights Amendment**

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration says it remains strongly committed to a constitutional amendment

supporting victims' rights, but has asked Congress to hedge it with a clause recognizing the "irreducible rights" of criminal defendants.

Associate Attorney General Raymond Fisher told the Senate Judiciary Committee that an amendment was needed to correct the imbalance "between defendants' constitutional rights and the current haphazard patchwork of victims' rights." But he noted that the administration also wanted to make sure that "we do not erode the rights of the accused."

The chief sponsors of the proposed amendment, Senators Jon Kyl, Republican of Arizona, and Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, said they had already scaled it back to cover only victims of "a crime of violence" and made other changes to protect defendants' rights to due process and effective counsel. (WP)

### Quote/Unquote

David Pyke, a lawyer for Paula Jones, as Mrs. Jones formally told a federal judge she was appealing the decision to dismiss her sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton: "She's continuing the fight. We're going to continue to make the same arguments and try to advance the legal arguments to a higher court." (AP)

### Away From Politics

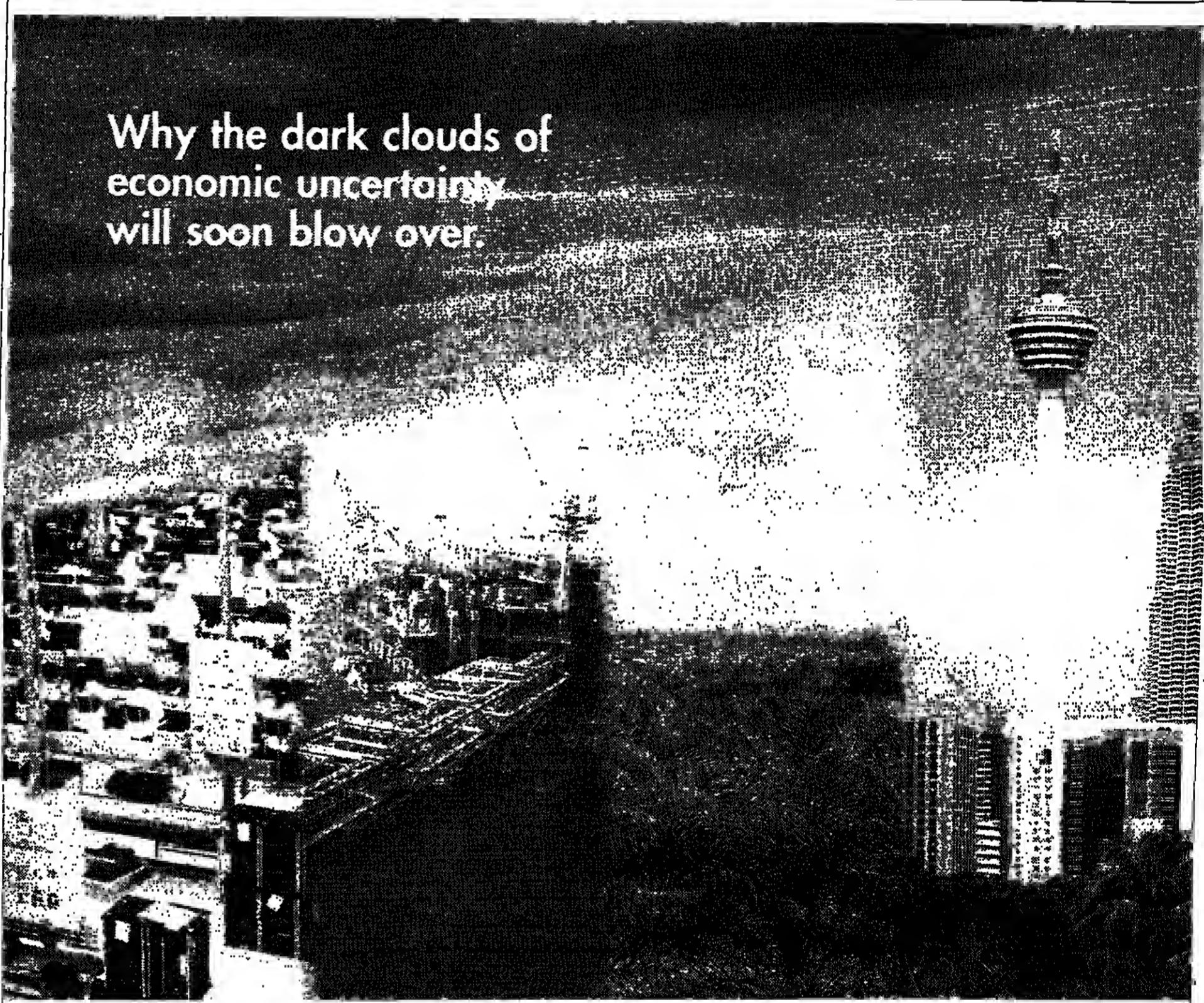
• Citing a high dropout rate among black students, the NAACP asked a federal judge to resume supervision of Cincinnati's public schools. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People accused the school board of being insincere about desegregation. (AP)

• The Arizona Supreme Court ruled that a 1988 law

requiring state and local government business to be conducted in English was unconstitutional. (NYT)

• More baby rats have died aboard the space shuttle Columbia, prompting an animal rights group to accuse the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of having an "appalling record" in animal research. (AP)

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## ASIA/PACIFIC

# North Korea Reaches Out To the South

**Pressing Reunification, Leader Seeks New Talks**

By Don Kirk  
International Herald Tribune

**SEOUL** — In an apparent attempt at matching South Korean diplomacy, Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader, called for "a wide-ranging, nationwide dialogue" in a drive toward reunifying the Korean Peninsula. North Korean media reported Wednesday.

North Korea's Korean Central News Agency, monitored here, reported the plea even as President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea called for resuming the North-South dialogue.

In Pyongyang, Kim Jong Il was quoted as saying that all Koreans, "North, South and abroad, must visit one another, hold contacts, promote dialogue and strengthen solidarity."

In Seoul, Kim Dae Jung said that he believed that eventually "in the course of South-North contacts," he and Kim Jong Il would hold talks.

Stressing the need for "reciprocity" in any deal with the North, Kim Dae Jung said the South would not provide fertilizer for North Korea if the North rejected its demand for reunions between families divided by the Korean War.

Significantly, the North Korean leader's plea, in the form of "an open letter" in the North Korean press, was dated April 18, the day that talks in Beijing broke down between North and South Korean deputy ministers. At the time, North Korea rejected the South's demand for family reunions as a "political issue" and said the South should provide fertilizer without preconditions.

Kim Jong Il's remarks appeared to synthesize North Korean statements since February when the North called for "dialogue" between groups from the North and South. In the letter, Kim Jong Il called for participation by "representatives of all political parties and social organizations, including the authorities and the figures from various



North Korean soldiers watching as the head of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, General Henry Shelton, toured the South Korean border Wednesday.

walks of life in the North and South and the overseas compatriots. "The purpose, he said, was "the unity of the nation."

The fact that Kim Jong Il, who almost never speaks in public and issues few major statements, attached his name to the letter appeared to observers here to show the desire of the North to keep up with Kim Dae Jung's proposals for diplomatic dialogue. Since his inauguration in February, Kim Dae Jung has called for exchanging envoys between the countries and reviewing a range of issues.

"The Kim Dae Jung government has a very active policy toward North Korea," said Choi Jin Wook, senior analyst with the Korean Institute for Unification, a South Korean research organization. "This is big headache for the North Korean government."

Other analysts, however, said they perceived no change in North Korea's policy. "The important thing is they show us by actions, not words," said Lho Kyung Soo, professor of international politics at Seoul National University. "If we can't agree on cooperation, where are we?"

## Afghan Factions Agree on Peace Commission

Reuters

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** — Afghan factions made headway Wednesday in preliminary peace talks, agreeing on the formation of a commission of scholars that will seek to negotiate a lasting peace.

The Taleban militia and the northern-based opposition alliance agreed to accept each other's choices of *ulema*, or scholars, to serve on the commission, said Ibrahim Saleh Bakr, the assistant secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mr. Bakr's organization and the United Nations are co-sponsoring the

negotiations, aimed at ending nearly two decades of warfare that began when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

The two delegations have reached an agreement on the proposed ulama commission," Mr. Bakr said.

Each delegation will submit a list to the other one for the commission with full accreditation and neither side will have the right to veto any name in the list of the other side."

Earlier Wednesday, the Taleban envoy to Islamabad, Abdul Hakim Mujahid reported "big progress" in the talks.

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EUROPE

## A Fresh Post for Russian Tycoon

Berezovsky Is Named at 'Empty' Summit of Post-Soviet Group

By Daniel Williams  
*Washington Post Service*

MOSCOW — A summit meeting of leaders from 12 former Soviet republics did little Wednesday to come to grips with the progressive collapse of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the pale successor to the Soviet Union.

The main thing that seems to have survived from the old Soviet alliance is the method of papering over problems: call another meeting and name someone new to head the bureaucracy.

On Wednesday, the Russian business tycoon Boris Berezovsky was named as executive secretary of the commonwealth, consistent with suggestions that private business should be given a stake in the preservation of the group of republics. Mr. Berezovsky will preside over a July forum on reorganization of the commonwealth.

Before the meeting Wednesday, Russian officials and some from the commonwealth had hoped for the endorsement of steps to integrate economies of commonwealth members. But continued wrangling over how close to bind the economic policies of the 12 members stood in the way.

"Today's talks were absolutely empty," said Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan and a promoter of economic integration. "I gave the

presidents a draft project on a unified economic space. All of this was taken who knows where."

Alexander Lukashenko, the president of Belarus, said, "I regret to say we did not make any advances."

The summit meeting was the second in succession to end without a major policy directive or any clear indication of how the organization intends to develop.

Originally designed as a low-cost successor to the Soviet Union and a geopolitical rival to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, the commonwealth is becoming irrelevant. Military cooperation is minimal. Trade among the countries is declining. Most members have gone off to create alliances among themselves, and several resist any form of integration with Russia, the prime promoter of unity.

Mr. Berezovsky's nomination raised eyebrows in Moscow because President Boris Yeltsin and Mr. Berezovsky have been feuding over internal Russian politics. Mr. Yeltsin was unhappy with Mr. Berezovsky for opposing Mr. Yeltsin's choice for prime minister, Sergei Kirienko. Mr. Yeltsin, who during a previous government shake-up dismissed Mr. Berezovsky from his post as security chief, was at pains to explain the appointment.

"I agreed because Berezovsky is a lively man," Mr. Yeltsin said. "I once sacked him, but this does not embarrass me."

Mr. Berezovsky's diplomatic career is limited to efforts to improve Moscow's relations with breakaway Chechnya. Despite tensions with Mr. Yeltsin, he remains a confidant of the president's daughter, Tatiana, and handles family finances. He will preside at a commonwealth meeting in July among lower level officials to reorganize the organization.

"The time has come for decisive steps to build a real CIS," Mr. Berezovsky said. Private capital is the only force able to consolidate the CIS."

Among Mr. Berezovsky's business interests is oil, and oil has become a key growth industry in the Central Asian region of the former Soviet Union. So far, Mr. Berezovsky's companies have won no stakes in the region.

Expectations are low for the next meeting.

"The commonwealth is in need of a substantial overhaul," said Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader. "Breakthroughs should be thoroughly prepared. A month, two, even a year are not enough."

### ■ Communists Assail Yeltsin

Russia's opposition Communists rejected President Yeltsin's new govern-



The Associated Press

Boris Yeltsin presenting Boris Berezovsky on Wednesday as the new executive secretary of the 12-country group.

ment lineup on Wednesday and bitterly criticized him over the promotion of Mr. Berezovsky.

Mr. Yeltsin, who defeated the Communists last week by winning parliamentary approval for Mr. Kirienko, rubbed salt into their wounds Tuesday by starting to name a new cabinet similar

to the one he dismissed last month.

"The head of state is completely scornful of public opinion," the Communist Party chief, Gennadi Zyuganov, told the Interfax press agency.

The new lineup, announced in part Tuesday, included Boris Nemtsov, one of the Communists' arch-enemies, and

retained familiar faces at the finance, defense, interior and foreign ministries. The final line-up is expected to be unveiled on Thursday.

A statement on Mr. Nemtsov's official Internet website Wednesday said he would control the energy sector and transportation.

## Russia to Put Mir Out of Its Misery

By Daniel Williams  
*Washington Post Service*

MOSCOW — Russian space officials are preparing the old, frail and forgetful Mir spacecraft for an assisted suicide.

A top official at RKK Energia, the company that built Mir and oversees it, said that cosmonauts on board would begin to maneuver it into a lower orbit in May, the first step in letting gravity do its work. A module would be launched toward Mir on May 15 carrying fuel to propel the station toward earth, a spokesman for the Russian space agency said.

Perhaps as early as December 1999, the last crew will abandon ship. The station will fall into the atmosphere and crash into the sea, either as a whole, or in pieces after modules are undocked from one another.

Mir's demise is being taken as a sign of Russia's declining fortunes in space.

"The end of Mir will mark the end of Russia's world leadership in orbital space exploration," said Yuri Semyonov, president of RKK Energia. "Henceforth, Russia will only be able to perform supporting roles in space."

Mir is the world's only orbiting manned space station. With 12 years aloft, it has long surpassed its original life expectancy of five years. More than 100 cosmonauts in 25 crews have served on it.

Last year, a collision with a supply vehicle poked holes in Mir and almost forced abandonment of the ship. Repeated failures of its computer memory several times sent the craft spinning out of control in orbit without power. Cosmonauts currently on board are trying to repair solar panels to ensure proper flows of energy harnessed from the sun's rays.

### BRIEFLY

### Spanish Basque Guerrillas See Model in Ulster Accord

BILBAO, Spain — The guerrilla group ETA said Wednesday that the Northern Ireland peace accords could provide lessons on how to end decades of violence in Spain's Basque country.

In a communiqué published in the Basque separatist newspaper Egin, the guerrilla group expressed "complete respect" for the Irish peace agreement reached on April 10 in Belfast and said it was "ready to learn from it."

"The most important lesson is that it produces an overall solution and that the solution it achieves responds to all the complicated aspects of the conflict," the statement said. (Reuters)

### Turkish Cypriots Demand Recognition Before Talks

NICOSIA — The Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, wants recognition of his breakaway state in northern Cyprus before settlement talks resume on the divided island, he was quoted on Wednesday as saying.

Mr. Denktash told the newspaper Cyprus Mail that recognition was the only way he would go back to the negotiating table with the Greek Cypriots.

"All we said is: Recognize and acknowledge that Greek Cypriots are not the government of Turkish Cypriots, that Turkish Cypriots have their own administration, their own government and their own state and the talks shall be between these two," he said. (Reuters)

### Hospital and Mail Services Cut in Danish General Strike

COPENHAGEN — Some hospitals cut back to emergencies-only service and mail delivery was scaled down Wednesday in the third day of a nationwide general strike.

Unions and employers agreed to meet late Wednesday, but it was unclear if the agreement indicated the sides were moving closer together in the dispute that has idled an estimated 550,000 workers, about one of every 10 people in the country.

Half a dozen hospitals outside Copenhagen announced they would handle only emergency cases because their cleaning employees were on strike. The post office said another service to the countryside would be reduced to every other day in order to save gasoline. (AP)

### French Police Seize Weapons In Raid on Arms Traffickers

PARIS — French police have smashed an arms trafficking ring and seized about a hundred weapons in a series of raids in Paris, the Alsace region and the Mediterranean island of Corsica, police sources said Wednesday.

A total of 46 people were taken into custody for questioning following the coordinated police sweeps, and the sources said that four or five of them would be brought before a judge. (Reuters)



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## INTERNATIONAL

# UN Inspectors' Findings Contradict Iraqi Claims

*Discovery of Mustard Gas in Artillery Shells Raises Queries About Those Unaccounted For*

By Barbara Crossette  
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The chief UN arms inspector's announcement that experts had discovered active mustard gas last month in artillery shells found at an Iraqi ammunition depot in 1996 raised new questions about more than 500 to 700 similar shells that are still unaccounted for in Iraq.

The inspector, Richard Butler, said at a news conference Tuesday that the case illustrated the recurrent problems encountered by his UN Special Commission since it was charged in 1991 with eliminating Iraq's prohibited weapons and the means to make them.

Mustard gas is a chemical agent that blisters the skin and lungs, burns the eyes and can cause cancers in the mouth, throat and respiratory tract. Commission officials said they had long suspected that the 155-millimeter shells that Iraq was known to have and that remain unaccounted for were likely to have been filled with mustard gas, which is kept in storage as a viscous liquid.

Earlier this month, a Russian chemical weapons expert on the commission, Igor Mirokhin, went to Iraq to try to learn more about the shells and hundreds of unaccounted-for canisters, bombs and rockets thought to have been designed to deliver chemical and biological weapons.

Mr. Butler refused to give details of Mr. Mirokhin's findings, or of the continuing investigation into the shells with the still-active gas. Another commission official said the shells had been sealed at an undisclosed location while a decision was being made on how to destroy them.

At least four of the 155-millimeter shells, with imported casings, were found in 1996 at an ammunition depot in central Iraq and were catalogued. The shells were not tested until March of this year, in the face of Iraqi opposition, after Iraq argued that they were no longer active and that more fieldwork in this area would be pointless.

The Iraqi foreign minister, Mohammed Said Salih, said earlier Tuesday that Iraq destroyed all its prohibited weapons in 1991.

But Mr. Butler gave his own account. "We went to a place where there was a mixed bag of munitions, and we found

some that had mustard in them," he said. "Now this raised the question of how many other such shells there are, or rockets, or bombs."

"This drives us back to their statement of disclosure, which itself has some discrepancies in it, which they themselves then changed," Mr. Butler said of the Iraqis' accounting of their munitions. "One of their claims was that even if shells like this did exist, they would be useless because the weapons agent inside would be so old that it would have polymerized — it would have hardened and been useless."

He added: "That's why we drilled holes in a couple of them to see if that were true. And it turned out to be very untrue. We have discovered an amount of chemical munitions — I can't tell you the exact amount because we have yet to bring it to account — with perfectly good chemical warfare agent within them. We tested them, and the mustard was 97 percent pure."

Mr. Butler said Iraq could not expect to have sanctions lifted by declaring itself free of weapons and then withholding full evidence to back its declarations.

"It's against the rules to believe it just because you say it," he said. "You have to give us the material to support your claim. That's where they are failing."

## A Shrug at Renewed Sanctions

Iraq put a brave face Wednesday on the UN Security Council's renewal of trade sanctions, saying the decision to review the embargo in 60 days was positive, The Associated Press reported from Baghdad.

"The issue is still under discussion and it is premature now to say what will happen next," said the Iraqi culture and information minister, Human Abdin Khaleq Abdul Ghafur.

The state-run newspaper Al Iraq took the same line, writing that the issue had not ended and that the Security Council "will continue its deliberations and will review sanctions every 60 days."

In a related development, President Saddam and his top officials decided at a meeting Wednesday to defer action on the renewal of sanctions, the official Iraqi press agency, INA, reported.

It said Mr. Saddam had decided to wait for Foreign Minister Saif al-Hussein's report on the deliberations by the council.

Although Iraq has made good on its promise to let inspectors into presiden-



Guy Smith, a member of a delegation from AmeriCares, an American relief group that delivered more than 35 tons of medicines and food supplies to Iraq, defending his group's efforts in Baghdad on Wednesday. (AP Wirephoto)

# Arafat Says He Approves U.S. Plan for West Bank

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, stepped up the pressure on Israel on Wednesday by accepting a compromise American proposal for West Bank troop withdrawals that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has rejected.

Mr. Arafat announced that he agreed to a U.S. proposal that Israel withdraw from 13 percent of the West Bank, saying his decision represented a major compromise for the Palestinians, who had expected to receive 40 percent of the occupied territories at this stage of the peace process.

"We have accepted this, working from a positive position," Mr. Arafat said at a news conference in Gaza with the Egyptian foreign minister, Amr Mussa.

Mr. Netanyahu has insisted that he cannot hand over that much land, citing security concerns. In recent days, Mr. Netanyahu has become increasingly defiant, saying he would not "capitulate" to U.S. pressure.

This hardening of positions makes it unlikely that the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, will make progress when she holds talks with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu in London on Monday.

The Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv speculated Wednesday that the United States might cancel the London talks if Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East envoy, failed to narrow the gaps by then. Mr. Ross has been in Israel since Saturday and has met five times with Mr. Netanyahu.

The Israeli prime minister remained defiant Wednesday. "All those who want the talks in London to succeed have to make concessions, not just Israel," Mr. Netanyahu told Israeli radio.

A senior Israeli official all but ruled out any chance of a breakthrough to London.

A senior Palestinian official, however, said the United States faced a "final test" of its role as sponsor of the Middle East peace process at the London talks.

"We believe the meeting is significant although we don't want to raise any expectations," said Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian Education Minister, at a news conference in Washington. "It is really the final test for the American role in the peace process."

If the United States fails to win concessions from Mr. Netanyahu, there will be a "serious reassessment" in the Arab world of Washington's role as the sponsor of the peace process, she said.

Washington has avoided making public its plan to break the deadlock in the peace process, which has endured for over a year. Such a move would be seen as putting overt pressure on Israel — a tactic strongly opposed by the powerful pro-Israel lobby in the United States.

But Mr. Arafat confirmed that Washington was calling for a return of 13 percent of the West Bank.

"Under the agreement," Mr. Arafat said, "the redeployment was supposed to be from 40 percent of the West Bank. Then it was lowered to 30 percent, then to 13 percent. We have accepted this." (AP Wirephoto)

## U.S. Ponders Reduction of Forces in Gulf

By Bradley Graham  
and John F. Harris  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Senior administration officials have begun considering whether to reduce U.S. military forces in the Gulf, but remain undecided as they weigh conflicting concerns about keeping pressure on Iraq while relieving strain on Pentagon operations.

United States had been maintaining in the region. It has created gaps, most notably in the absence of aircraft carriers and other military assets in two critical foreign theaters — the western Pacific and the Mediterranean.

Defense officials said General Anthony Zinni, the four-star Marine Corps officer who oversees U.S. forces in the Gulf, briefed Defense Secretary William Cohen and the military service chiefs about two weeks ago on options for reducing the U.S. military presence.

"The big piece is what to do about the carriers there — whether to go from two to one," said military source familiar with the briefing. General Zinni's options also include cuts in land-based aircraft and ground troops.

But even the most sizable reduction on General Zinni's list, the source said, would leave a force in the Gulf considerably greater than what existed before the rise in tensions with Iraq last summer. Mr. Bacon stressed that any cut in forces could be quickly reversed should Iraqi actions present a new threat.

The administration's discussions over force size have been part of a broader high-level review of Iraq strategy, officials said. The thrust of the conversations has concerned how to de-escalate the crisis and reduce expectations that any violation by Iraq of the inspections regime must be met by the threat of military force — an approach not favored by most U.S. allies, especially in the Arab world.

"So the language is less bellicose, less threatening," he said, adding that Mr. Saddam had been more receptive to UN Special Commission inspectors.

The Gulf buildup has stretched U.S. national security commitments elsewhere and confronted the Defense Department with extra costs, estimated at \$1.36 billion through September, when the fiscal year ends.

The surge in forces has involved nearly 400 combat aircraft, 29 ships and roughly double the number of sailors, soldiers, Marines and airmen that the

administration's discussions over force size have been part of a broader high-level review of Iraq strategy, officials said. The thrust of the conversations has concerned how to de-escalate the crisis and reduce expectations that any violation by Iraq of the inspections regime must be met by the threat of military force — an approach not favored by most U.S. allies, especially in the Arab world.

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Arafat Says  
He Approves  
U.S. Plan for  
West Bank

## INTERNATIONAL

## Ecologists Say Poisons Seep Into Spanish Park

### Government Sees No Danger to Reserve

Compiled by Our Staff From Newspapers

SEVILLE — Experts said Wednesday that toxic waste had begun seeping into Europe's largest nature reserve despite Spanish government assurances the park had been saved from ecological disaster.

Environmentalists said poisons from a toxic spill that devastated marshlands surrounding Donana National Park were now draining into the underground water channel that serves the vast nature paradise in southern Spain.

Volunteers in protective masks fanned out to clear away hundreds of dead fish and birds that littered the 30-kilometer (20-mile) path taken by the toxic flow after it poured from a ruptured mine reservoir on Saturday.

Park rangers fired guns on the fringes of the wetlands to prevent birds from feeding in the contaminated areas.

About 2,000 farmers living in one of Spain's poorest regions were left struggling to cope with one of the country's worst ecological disasters.

An estimated 5 million cubic meters (176 million cubic feet) of "metallic waste burst Saturday from the Apurra Mine reservoir in Aznalcollar, 400 kilometers southwest of Madrid and only 20 kilometers north of the park.

Environmentalists said it could take decades for the region's ecosystem to recover.

"We must take measures to minimize the consequences of this unthinkable

accident," said Anders Bulow, president of the Canadian-Swedish company Boliden Ltd., which owns the mine near Seville.

Mr. Bulow said the company was "embarrassed" about its role in the disaster but maintained that it had taken every precaution to prevent it.

He said the immediate cause of the breach was apparently a "sliding layer of earth" about 6 to 8 meters (20 to 25 feet) below the dike but it was not known what triggered the movement.

Environment Minister Isabel Tocino has insisted that although she expected enormous ecological and agricultural damage in the surrounding area, the park was saved by blocking the flow of water.

Makeshift dikes diverted the acidic and toxic mix, residues of cadmium, zinc, iron and other metals, away from the park, one of Europe's most prized nature reserves, and toward the Guadalquivir River, which flows into the Atlantic Ocean about 95 kilometers south.

But environmentalists contend that the reserve was now at risk of a "slow death" from the accumulation of toxins in surrounding areas that serve as feeding grounds for millions of birds and other wildlife.

"Unfortunately, birds have no idea where the park's borders begin and end," a Greenpeace spokesman said.

The director of the park's scientific research center appealed for help from



Anders Bulow, Swedish mining executive, at a Spanish press conference.

world specialists. "We, the scientists, have the challenge now to recuperate lost lands, and for that we need all the resources available, in Spain or outside Spain," said Miguel Ferrer, a biologist.

Mr. Ferrer said an urgent meeting was needed of specialists who deal with polluted environments to analyze the contaminated areas surrounding the park and to apply the latest recuperation technology.

The president of the Royal Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences, Angel Martin Munizco, said damage to the region could be everlasting. "The repercussion of this spill will be for eternity over thousands of hectares," he said.

The country's largest farmers' group said the spill caused \$79 million in crop losses and could leave almost 5,300 hectares (13,000 acres) of land barren for 25 years.

(Reuters, AP)

## Kohl Parties Are Warned Against Rightist Strategy

### Extremists 'Can't Be Overtaken,' Partner Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Newspapers

BONN — Part of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's own center-right coalition warned Wednesday against moving more to the right to keep extremist parties from winning seats in September's parliamentary election.

Sources in the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian sister party to Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, said a joint election strategy being drawn up would call on the parties to stress rightist issues such as crime and cracking down on immigrants working in Germany illegally.

The leading parties hope in that way to keep voters this fall from backing extreme-right groups like the German People's Union, which shocked Germany's political establishment by taking 13 percent of the vote in a state election last weekend.

But the junior partner in Mr. Kohl's coalition government, the Free Democratic Party, warned that extreme-right groups "can't be overtaken."

The Free Democrats' parliamentary leader, Hermann Otto Solms, said anyone attempting to win over extreme-right voters with rightist slogans should not be surprised if they achieve the exact opposite and end up strengthening the extreme-right parties.

The chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Ignatz Bubis, also warned against turning foreigners into a campaign issue, saying it would make the far right "respectable."

German opposition parties, meanwhile, called Wednesday for "zero tolerance" of ultrarightist crime.

The Greens' immigration spokesman, Cem Ozdemir, and the Social Democrats' legal affairs spokeswoman, Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, called for tough measures to combat far-right crime and also warned other parties in Parliament against a shift to the right.

"For people who make the Hitler salute or collect Nazi memorabilia, we know only too well what it can lead to in this country," Mr. Ozdemir said.

"We want zero tolerance towards ultraright crime," he said.

Mr. Ozdemir also criticized the Christian Social Union's call for a return to traditional rightist values.

"I appeal to my parliamentary colleagues to stand firm and not to make concessions," he said.

Mr. Ozdemir, the only deputy of Turkish origin in the lower house of Parliament, proposed creating a central office to document crimes of the extreme right to help investigators.

He also called for swifter prosecution of rightist criminals and said teachers and youth workers should be urged to address the problem more effectively.

"A democratic society must protect minorities, whether they are foreigners, gays or lesbians," he said. "Victims need more protection. Sometimes we are more concerned about the perpetrators."

(AP, Reuters)

## An Academic Savior Passionate Philanthropist Rides To the Rescue of Russian Studies

By Carey Goldberg  
New York Times Service

BOSTON — Fresh out of Wellesley College back in 1928, Kathryn Wasserman Davis rode on horseback deep into the Caucasus mountains in search of adventure and an obscure Muslim tribe, subsisted on berries and goats, almost starved, and conceived a lifelong passion for things Soviet and Russian.

Today, at 91, Mrs. Davis is riding to the rescue of Russian studies in America, becoming what experts believe is the largest private donor to programs that, with the end of the Cold War, can no longer count on easy money from the government and foundations.

When Harvard University's former Russian Research Center celebrates its 50th birthday this week, it will do so as the Kathryn W. and Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Russian Studies, reflecting the \$10 million Mrs. Davis pledged to the center in 1996, to be awarded upon her death.

Wellesley College plans to announce Mrs. Davis's latest gift: \$11 million to the school to support international student exchanges, faculty and student research and internships with an emphasis on the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"Some people think Russian studies aren't important anymore — don't ask me why!" Mrs. Davis said. "The more people know about each other, the better, and this is what I'm hoping will happen," she said. "And hopefully, that will lead to world peace, which is my main goal."

Private support for Russian studies has a long history, said the Harvard center's director, Timothy Colton. A postwar grant from the Carnegie Foundation established the center, he noted, and in 1982, the Harriman family gave \$11.5 million to the W. Averell Harriman Institute for Advanced Study of the Soviet Union at Columbia University. Stanford University's Center for Russian and East European Studies had hearty support from Donald Kendall, the former chairman of Pepsico, officials there say.

As the Cold War intensified, Russian scholars admit, they received plump grants authorized by Congress to help the United States learn more about one of its enemies.

But since the Soviet Union collapsed and a new Russia took its place as a quasi-friendly, quasi-superpower, that financing has begun to dry up and the field has been undergoing a painful downsizing that Mr. Colton said he preferred to call "a course correction."

A few Russian studies programs at colleges have closed; many seem to be running on a shoestring as they struggle to adjust. Last month, for example, the dean of George Mason University's College of Arts and Sciences proposed eliminating its degree program in Russian studies.

In Congress, said Mark Von Hagen, director of the Harriman Center, some lawmakers use "the ignorance argument: that we won the Cold War and they lost, and so we don't need to know anything about them anymore."

That is a mistake that has been made before, said Marshall Goldman, who holds the Kathryn W. Davis professorship of Slavic Studies at Wellesley — a chair whose endowment was a birthday gift from Shelby Cullom Davis to Kathryn, his wife. Mr. Davis died in 1994. "You'd never say China is just like everywhere else," Mr. Goldman said. "You'd never question the fact that we must keep studying China. And yet, because Russia is European, we say, 'Well, it's not that much different from what we'd expect in Germany.'"

Such attitudes, he said, led to gaps in American knowledge that caused problems as the Soviet Union began to explode with change and spin apart under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev.

"There has to be an enduring presence of specialists knowledgeable about Russia," he said, "and what Kathryn is doing is making it possible to have that enduring opportunity."

## Cable Venture Aims to Offer Quality Programs for Children

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A U.S. cable network and the most acclaimed producer of educational programming have announced that they will team up to start the first all-educational cable channel for children, in a bid to capitalize on concerns about the poor quality of children's television.

Nickelodeon, a highly popular children's network, and Sesame Workshop, the producer of "Sesame Street" and other acclaimed shows, said Tuesday that they had formed a joint venture to create the network, called Noggin. It will be commercial-free, at least initially, and is scheduled to start appearing in January.

How many cable operators will find room for Noggin in their already crowded systems is open to question, but Nickelodeon and the Children's Television Workshop hope that cable companies will be influenced by the current climate of dismay about the television programming that captures a large children's audience — from violent cartoons to trash-talk shows. Nickelodeon's president, Herb Scannell, said he was confident that cable operators would make room for the network eventually.

"Education is very important to Americans today," he said. "And we're bringing out something very dynamic and positive, as opposed to the broadcast industry, which is kind of in a resistance mode right now."

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## OPINION/LETTERS

**The Failures of Capitalism And Contemporary Culture**

By Edward Rothstein

**N**EW YORK — "Two Cheers for Capitalism" was the way Irving Kristol once heralded his measured acclaim for the marketplace and its freedoms. But when it comes to culture and the arts, the growing tendency is to give capitalism no more than one sarcastic cheer.

The indictment is considerable. Look at what the forces of the marketplace have wrought, say capitalism's critics.

In writing, style is often dumbed down; mass taste is pandered to. In the world of music, avatars of sophisticated styles go on the dole while second-rate pop acts sell out stadiums.

Every major cultural institution, from the Metropolitan Museum of

critical order and a certain amount of discipline and restraint in plan for the future and play its current wares. But a capitalist culture like the one that has developed in recent decades does not value the kind of patience and asceticism that sociologists like Max Weber associated with the origins of capitalism. Instead, capitalist culture values self-gratification and novelty.

The result, Mr. Bell suggests, is a nihilistic culture commonly known as postmodern.

But is there any chance of at least one halfhearted cheer? One way to feel more sanguine about capitalism's influence is to be more welcoming to the variety that the marketplace produces.

This is an approach taken in a new book, "In Praise of Commercial Culture," by Tyler Cowen, an economist. He argues that capitalism and commerce, far from corrupting the arts, help them develop. Mr. Cowen calls himself a cultural optimist and says we are living in a fabulously creative and fertile epoch.

Indeed, he thinks that some of the misunderstandings about capitalism's negative impact come from cultural pessimists who see value mainly in the elite styles of the past and not in the plenty of today.

He loves all varieties of sights and sounds, praising the marketplace for providing access to the music of the Pygmies of Central Africa as well as to the compositions of Pierre Boulez. Well-developed markets, he argues, support diversity, encourage experimentation and allow for high and low culture to interact.

In fact, he suggests, the differences between popular entertainments and high artistic achievement are matters of economics. High-cost artistic forms like film must find the largest audience, and low-cost forms like poetry can afford to seek more gourmet tastes. Capital-intensive arts are often popular; labor-intensive arts tend to be elite.

For a critic like me who is both a cultural pessimist and a lover of sights and sounds, this is a bit too sweeping, making art seem like just another medium of exchange in which fame and money trade hands.

Yes, art has flourished during periods of great economic growth, whether in Renaissance Florence or in 19th century England. Surely capitalism does spur artistic innovation. But something other than capitalism is involved, and something other than



by LOUIS VALZI, A Times Syndicate

economics determines art's importance.

Handel wrote music for a paying audience. That does not mean, as the conductor Roger Norrington once suggested, that today we would be writing ad jingles.

The marketplace has always been a part of artistic creation. Rembrandt's studio manufactured works in the master's style; Dickens wrote novels for popular serialization; Brahms made an exceptionally comfortable living from publishers who sold his scores to avid amateurs. But that does not mean that the modern-day counterparts of Rembrandt, Dickens and Brahms are Andy Warhol, Judith Krantz and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Something different has taken place in recent decades. The complaints may be similar, but the results are not. There is plenty of good work to be found, but the greatest seems so much less substantial and certainly much more marginal than the greatest of past eras.

In music, for instance, I may admire Ellton Carter's string quartets, but they will never become as important to our society or art as Beethoven's were to his. We are likely to treat them as favorite products of a small subculture.

This may have something to do with the ways in which, as Mr. Bell suggested, capitalism and culture interact.

Capitalism, after all, is not a utopian enterprise; it was not established to promote a particular view of human nature and its possibilities. It is, instead, a reflection of the fact that

human nature is desirous, that it yearns for things, places, people, possibilities.

Capitalism is a matter of trade. It allows some satisfaction of one's desire if one helps satisfy someone else's. Build a better mousetrap, and someday you can vacation in Tahiti.

But the cultural marketplace at one time had a different texture.

What creates culture is not just the satisfaction of desire but the actual creation of values that shape desire. That value has to come from outside the marketplace and, when it does, it creates a context for the market, adding worth to some achievements, denying it to others.

Constraints on desire were once commonly proffered by religion, artistic traditions or the disciplines of a craft. Art flourishes because of capitalism, but it has also flourished because of capitalism's limits, its restraints. It may be that one problem today is that this notion of constraint is thought of solely in legal and political terms, rather than being understood as one of the primary roles of culture itself.

Right now we are often out just multiculturalists but aculturalists, not acknowledging any overarching series of beliefs, values or practices.

So the failures of capitalism may well be due to the failures of contemporary culture, rather than the other way around. Capitalism gives us the art we desire, but only culture — culture in its broadest sense — can help provide the art we deserve.

The New York Times

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Kosovo Intervention**

Regarding "U.S. Regards Intervention in Kosovo as Possible" (April 28):

Reports of more active involvement by the United States and other NATO forces in the Kosovo crisis will no doubt come as welcome news to the secessionists in the Serbian province.

Every Kosovo Albanian who dreams of living in a Greater Albania is aware that independence is possible only with outside military assistance. Despite outnumbering local Serbs nine to one, and despite increased smuggling of arms and ammunition to the Kosovo Albanians, the balance of power still weighs heavily on the side of the state authorities — that is, until the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization get involved.

The talk, emanating from unidentified spin doctors in Brussels, of no-fly rules and of strengthening the international presence around Kosovo will be interpreted, by both sides, as further evidence of support for the Albanian cause.

That NATO talks peace and prepares for war is out

surprising; what is surprising is the deafening silence on the methods employed by Albanian extremists to gain independence.

If NATO were truly committed to stability in the Balkans, it would not condone the use of violence by any ethnic group to redraw international borders. Furthermore, it would use its influence to shut down terrorist training camps and to halt the movements of armed infiltrators.

MARCO HEGEMONIS, London.

A split is emerging between the United States and its European allies on what should be done with the Kosovo conflict. While the Europeans and Russians favor negotiations, the United States seems to be moving in the direction of diplomatic confrontation and military action against Serbia.

Although it may be easier and emotionally more appealing for the United States to "resolve" the situation in Kosovo by military means, this would not bring about a tangible and just solution.

Rather, a complex and long process of negotiation will have to be begun. Although

the exact form of such negotiations is difficult to foresee, three well-established principles of international relations should be accepted by the United States:

1. Negotiations cannot take place under the threat of violence or terrorism, either Albanian, Serbian or American.

2. Negotiations must take place in accordance with the normal principles of international law, central aspects of which concern the territorial integrity of sovereign states and the inviolability of borders.

3. Under international law, a claim for autonomy or minority rights does not imply the right of secession. There is no legal right of secession from a sovereign state by any entity within it without the agreement of all the constitutional parts of that state, including the consent of at least a majority of the citizenry.

This third principle is central to world stability. The United States follows this principle when dealing with many situations analogous to the one in Kosovo: in Mexico's Chiapas province; in Canada's Quebec; in Turkey's Kurdish region; in Spain's

Basque country, and in the Tamil area of Sri Lanka.

OSKAR LINDSTROM, Stockholm.

**Racism in America**

Regarding "It's Time for Americans to Stop Crying 'Racism'" (Opinion, April 28) by Laurence D. Cohen:

Mr. Cohen's article ended with the comment that "racism is a footnote in the American annual report."

In fact, anti-black racism plays a major role in the American criminal justice system. African-American men are overarrested and oversentenced in comparison with whites committing the same crimes. Worse, in the area of the perpetual "war on drugs," some laws have specifically targeted the black community.

As in the days of Jim Crow,

the American criminal justice system today is mainly oriented toward controlling the black underworld.

Racism is not a footnote in the American annual report; it is the bottom line on the moral accounting sheet.

EARL M. EVLETH, Paris.

**TOUGH JEWS**  
Fathers, Sons and Gangster Dreams

By Rich Cohen. Illustrated. 271 pages. \$25. Simon & Schuster.

Reviewed by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt

**HALFWAY** through "Tough Jews,"

His exuberant celebration of a certain breed of men, Rich Cohen writes, "Most people have never heard of Jewish gangsters. They do not believe they ever existed. The very idea of a Jewish gangster goes against basic stereotypes of Jews, stereotypes that explain the place of Jews in the world."

Even the few Jewish gangsters who are widely known are viewed through these stereotypes, he continues: "They are seen as number crunchers, financial geniuses who could have worked their craft as easily on Wall Street as on

Hester Street."

But Cohen has a beard of Jewish gangsters. He writes that he would like to have heard of them from his father, Herbie. But Herbie, while always happy to see him, would act with him entirely different from the way he was without him, when his language was reported to be "filled with obscenity" and memories of thugs. "I sometimes wish I could talk to him before he sees me," the author writes.

So he had to bear about them from the friends of his father who grew up together in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, and modeled if not quite their action then their style on the generation of tough Jews that went before them. These friends were Sid and Asher and Larry, who was then known as Zeke the Creek, the Mouthpiece and today is the radio and television interviewer Larry King.

And Cohen — himself a journalist, a contributing editor at Rolling Stone and the great-grandson of a man who owned

a diner where Jewish toughs hung out — knows well that the gangsters were not just number crunchers and material for stand-up comics but violent men known as Louis Lepke, Gurnah Shapiro, Meyer Lansky, Greenie Greenberg, Tick-Tock Tannenbaum, Little Farvel Cohen, Pep Strauss, Gangy Cohen, Pretty Levine, Abe (Kid Twist) Reles and Martin (Bugsy) Goldstein, among others.

Cohen writes about how these men shot, cut, stabbed, garroted, strangled, burned and buried alive. By doing so with efficiency, they helped make murder into a business. And, he concludes, under the leadership of Arnold Rothstein, one of their most brilliant members, they turned organized crime into a modern business.

At the very least, "Tough Jews" is a vivid narrative of the rise and fall of these men. It places familiar events in perspective and makes connections not always clear in previous accounts.

Tracing the careers of Kid Twist Reles and Bugsy Goldstein, two Brownsville thugs who gunned their way to the top of the Brooklyn underworld (the actor Edward G. Robinson is thought to have modeled his criminals on Goldstein), Cohen shows how Murder Incorporated came into being and how it fit into the bigger picture dominated by men like Lepke, Lansky and Lucky Luciano.

"Tough Jews" brings familiar history back to life, like the murder of Dutch Schultz; the deal among Walter Winchell, J. Edgar Hoover and Albert Anastasia that led to Lepke's capture, trial and execution, and the mysterious fatal fall of Reles out the window of the Half Moon Hotel on Coney Island, where he was living while testifying in the prosecution of fellow criminals in 1941.

The book also summons up remembrances of candy stores and street corners past where young toughs once hung out.

And Cohen seeks to dispel popular

myths: that drugs were forbidden to the crime families (after all, he argues, Vito Genovese died in jail for narcotics dealing and Lansky seems to have gone through a period of heroin addiction); that Jews and Italians didn't like to mix (in fact, they cooperated, recognizing that their common interests transcended background and religion), and that Rothstein was responsible for fixing the 1919 World Series (a legend perpetuated by Fitzgerald in "The Great Gatsby," although Cohen egregiously misspells Meyer Wolfsheim, the name of the character based on Rothstein).

But more valuably, with "Tough Jews," Cohen explains the obsessions of people like himself who admire and celebrate and keep alive the memory of the Jewish gangsters. His story is really one of just three generations, he writes:

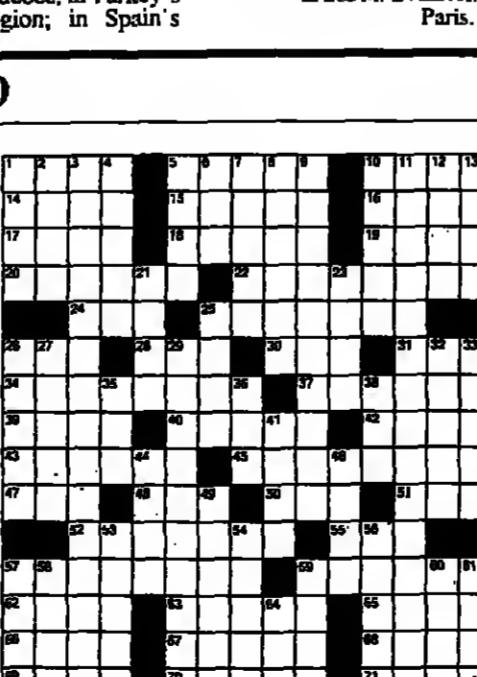
"The gangster generation, that handful of early century Jews who tried to bust into the palace with a crowbar; my father's generation, diligent sons who carried us over the threshold with bard work; my generation, cool-thinking sub-urbanites who wonder what it was like back on the outside."

Cohen writes that because the ghettos melted away, Jews got out of crime, which was "a ladder they pulled up behind them, a one-way 'this generation-only' shortcut to power." But the gangsters created an example that was an anodyne in the aftermaths of the Holocaust, the image of a Jew who fought back, which freed Cohen to choose NOT to be a bully, he reasons.

As Cohen concludes: "The story I am left with is therefore not so much one of facts as the noise those facts make passing through time. It is a story of shifting perspective, the way a group of Brooklyn thugs, each with his own rise and fall, fills a need in the lives of my father and his friends, and ends, and in my life."

New York Times Service

## BOOKS



© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

**CROSSWORD**

1. "Hasta luego!"  
2. Like Mozart's flute.  
3. Eln orgs.  
4. Riffraff.  
5. College town near Bangor.  
6. Mock words of enlightenment.  
7. Prefix with lateral.  
8. Summer job seeker, often.  
9. Don sackcloth and ashes.  
10. Lunchbox alternative.  
11. Trojan's sch.  
12. Porky's love.

25 Blvd. crossers.  
26 Mary Todd's love.  
29 Shakespearean handout.  
31 Big bang producer.  
34 It's dead, some say.  
37 Overtly.  
38 Last, plus one.  
39 Last of a series.  
40 Coal site.  
42 Gilligan's boat for it.  
43 Clock setting std.  
44 Clockwise.  
45 Lackawanna, e.g.: Abbr.

51 Today's response as Publicist's handout.  
52 Two-plus U.S. film winners.  
53 Added to a recording.  
54 "Hum!"  
55 Black-and-white treat.  
56 Vastness.  
57 Govt. watchdog.  
58 Hit plenty hard.  
59 Feminine org. since the 1950's.  
60 Dalton of "Wild Things".  
61 Some shoes.  
62 Art school subj.  
63 "So's — old man".  
64 Macrogametes star.  
65 Rubberneck.  
66 Argus — (vigilant).  
67 Chinese exercises vessel.  
68 W.W. II torpedo.  
69 Kind of preview.  
70 Gulf of Sidra locale.  
71 Art School subj.  
72 Bad and appropriately.  
73 Frank out.  
74 Not learned.  
75 O'Neill/Streisand comedy.  
76 Trots.  
77 SLEETS.  
78 STEDSON PAH TBS.  
79 THREE MEN IN A BOAT.  
80 EARS EVER KNOCKY.  
81 MIST RATE ENDUE.

**Solution to Puzzle of April 29**

1. MUFTI PEAK DEJA  
2. OSSA EVES  
3. AGRIM NEWNS  
4. THE SHIPPING NEWS  
5. TSE ASP AGAINST  
6. FORMED APE  
7. SLOAN HEAR OUAL  
8. CARTEL FROM NHE  
9. APASSAGE TO INDIA  
10. REL STAN SLEETS  
11. ELLA ELSE KARAT  
12. TEC EXISTS  
13. STEDSON PAH TBS  
14. THREE MEN IN A BOAT  
15. EARS EVER KNOCKY  
16. MIST RATE ENDUE

17. \*Hasta luego! 18. Glona (lesser dentistry)  
19. \*Tin Pan Alley 20. product  
21. Orange Bowl org.  
22. Opposite of exec.  
23. Sun service  
24. Jerk  
25. Not our  
26. Comment from Popeye, appropriately  
27. Kind of pollution  
28. Steps on a scale?  
29. U-Haul unit  
30. "So's — old man"  
31. Macchi Pochu resident  
32. Exactly  
33. Whiz

34. Some are indebt.  
35. Machu Picchu  
36. Edith S. 37. 38.  
39. Gulf of Sidra  
40. Bad and appropriately.  
41. Exactly  
42. — Minor

**An Admirable American Movie That the Gun Lobby Will Hate**

By Tom Shales

**W**ASHINGTON — It could be argued that any movie that upsets the National Rifle Association has to be a good movie. Whether that is true or not, "The Long Island Incident: The True Story of Carolyn McCarthy" is a good movie and, as it happens, it will give the NRA fits. Hooyah!

In 1993, Carolyn McCarthy was a nurse who lived on Long Island, New York, with her husband, Dennis, and her grown son.

**MEANWHILE**

Kevin, she was soon to be thrust into the national spotlight by a tragedy. In the course of that, she found strength within herself that she never knew she had and used it to inspire others.

The television movie opens with Mrs. McCarthy living an enviable normal life with her small family. It is November, and she and her husband are off on a skiing trip while Kevin continues working and commuting to Manhattan.

At about the same time, a disgruntled lug named Colin Ferguson was trying to buy a gun at a shop in New York

## INTERNATIONAL

**Insurers, Too, Swoon Over Pill**

*Amid a Frenzy of Interest in the Impotence-Fighting Drug, Strict Limits Are Set on Reimbursement Policies for Viagra*

New York Times Service  
NEW YORK — Fearing huge payouts to millions of American men, several large insurers are adopting strict reimbursement policies for Viagra, Pfizer's new pill for impotence, requiring proof of a medical cause for the problem and setting limits on the number of pills.

Experts think these preliminary standards, which are being developed amid a frenzy of interest in the new drug, will quickly evolve into a national pattern for Viagra repayment policies.

Insurers have been wrestling for weeks with how to cover the drug without paying the claims of men who do not suffer from physical ailments or diseases known to cause impotence.

For example, men who are covered by Wellpoint Health Networks in

California will not be reimbursed for the prescription unless they have a doctor's written statement that they suffer from erectile dysfunction.

Cigna Healthcare, which covers 15 million people nationwide, said Tuesday that for men to qualify for Viagra coverage until permanent rules are established, they must have a "pre-existing documented condition of organic impotence, which is currently being treated by other medical means."

Once those conditions are met, Cigna will pay for only six pills a month. Patients will have to pay the cost out of their own pocket for any more.

In general, a single dose of Viagra costs about \$10 at retail pharmacies, although some are charging considerably more. Men can safely take one dose a day.

**VETO: Dues Bill Threatened**

Continued from Page 1

leaders in the House threatened to exclude from an emergency spending bill the provision of \$1.8 billion for the International Monetary Fund. The Fund has seen its resources depleted by the recent bailouts in Asia.

If the IMF and UN money are excluded from that bill, the White House budget director, Franklin Raines, warned Wednesday in a letter to congressional leaders, the president's advisers would recommend that he not sign it.

That spending bill would also provide relief for victims of storms linked to the El Niño weather pattern, and for keeping U.S. troops in Bosnia and the Gulf.

Democrats said they hoped American voters would be angered by the inclusion of the abortion provision in the State Department bill and pressure Republicans to retreat.

The issue of abortion is one in which each side sees high political stakes, far higher, in domestic terms, than the issue of UN dues.

The latest events marked a further sharpening of confrontation that has emerged in recent days. In addition to the legislative conflict, Representative Newt Gingrich of Georgia, the speaker of the House, has recently launched a series of attacks on Mr. Clinton's credibility and urged other Republicans to join him.

The abortion provision was denounced as "legislative blackmail" by Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware, the ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, threw down a gauntlet for Mr. Clinton on the State Department reorganization bill.

The president "has waved that veto flag time after time," he said. "But he should realize that this is it. If he vetoes this bill, there will be no further action."

The Clinton administration has already faced serious challenges to major elements of its foreign policy, suffering rebuffs last year in its pursuit of "fast-track" trade negotiating authority and of funding for the IMF.

On Tuesday, before the Senate vote, Mr. Clinton had condemned Congress' failure to unconditionally pay the back UN dues. "I don't think that is a responsible, mature message to send to the world," he said.

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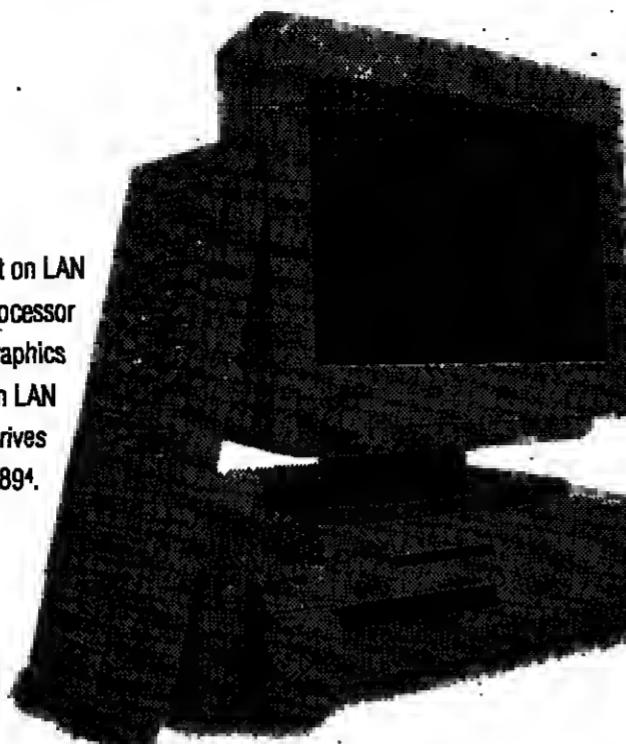
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e business tools

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tools, you are  
never what kind  
of work for.



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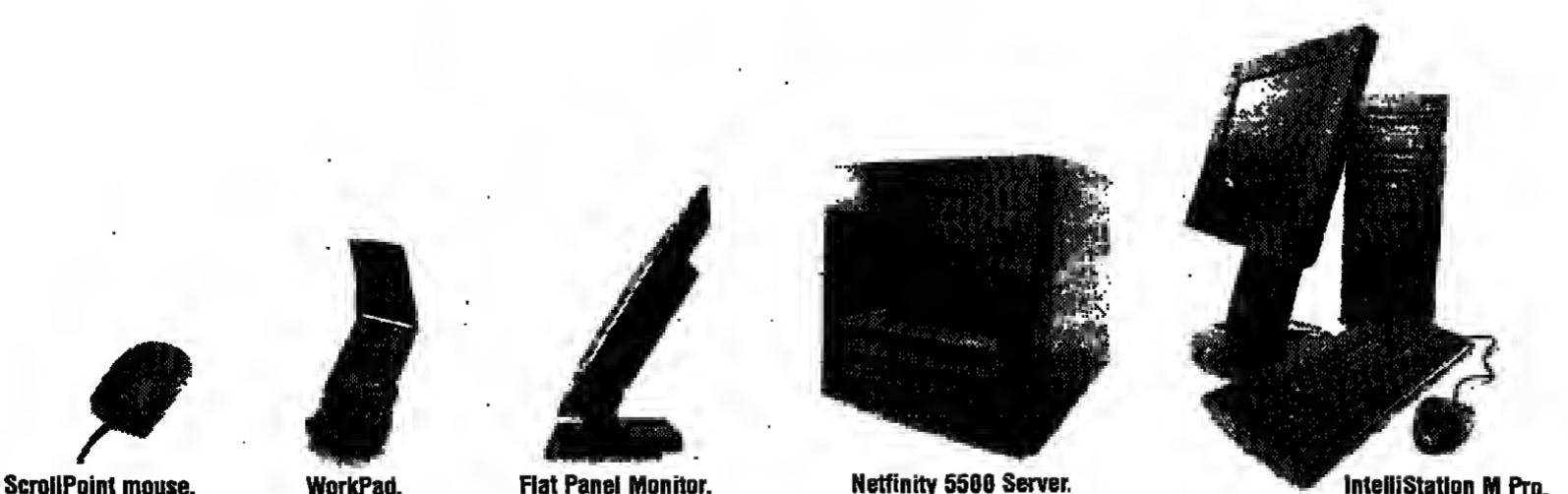
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} e business tools

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## DESTINATION GREECE DOORWAY TO PLEASURE



For the ancient Greeks, attending dramatic performances was considered a way to help restore the ailing body to health.

"DESTINATION GREECE: DOORWAY TO PLEASURE" was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune.  
WRITER: John Rigos in Athens.  
ILLUSTRATION: Karen A. Steckler-Wilson.  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahler.

### THE RESTORATIVE DELIGHTS OF GRECIAN LEISURE

*Greece offers vacationers far more to do than sightsee and laze on beaches — although these are never far away.*

Tourists used to come to Greece only to see the classical ruins, swim along the sandy beaches in the summer and enjoy the clear blue skies and bright sun. Now, they can enjoy much more than that, as both private enterprise and the state-run National Tourism Organization are turning the country into a center for culture, summer and winter sports and just plain fun.

The Athens and Epidaurus Festivals, in the summer months, offer classical theater, music and dance in their programs. This summer, Epidaurus will hold performances in an ancient open-air theater with a capacity of 14,000 and excellent acoustics. The state-run National Theater and a number of private theater groups will stage comedies by Aristophanes, the great fifth-century playwright, and several tragedies by the greatest playwrights of antiquity. Open Theater will present "Acharnians," the Cyprus Theater Organization "Peace," the Athens Amphitheater "Women of the Ecclesia," the National Theater "Frogs" and the State Theater of Northern Greece "Clouds," all comedies by Aristophanes. Other groups will stage "Oedipus in Colonus" and "Electra" by Sophocles as well as Euripides's "Orestes."

**Cathartic benefits**  
Epidaurus lies 135 kilometers (84 miles) southwest of Athens in northeastern Peloponnesus and was the sanctuary of Asclepius, the god of

health. Pilgrims with health problems used to go there to seek the help of the god and his priests, who were trained as healers. The ancient Greeks believed that most illnesses were psychosomatic or the result of tension, and dramatic performances were considered an essential part of the healing process.

The Epidaurus Theater Festival is held every year in July and August on Friday and Saturday evenings. Most tourist agencies organize bus transportation to Epidaurus from Athens and other tourist destinations where a play is on so that audience members can return to their hotels by midnight.

The Athens Festival takes place at the ancient Roman Theater of Herodes Atticus under the Acropolis, and includes theater performances, concerts of classical and modern music and dance. In June, the Greek Opera House will present Verdi's "The Force of Destiny," "Tango por Dos," the Greek singer Nana Mouskouri and the Gala des Etoiles, dance shows with the participation of stars like Maya Plisetskaya, Fernando Bujones, Evelyn Hart, Dmitri Simkin and others.

In July, the West End Orchestra will perform a selection of music from the best musicals of recent years, including "The Phantom of the Opera," "Les Misérables," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Miss Saigon" and others.

The Free Theater of Cyprus will present "Bacchae" by Euripides and several classical and light music con-

certs. In August, the program begins with "The Acharnians" by Aristophanes, and includes a play by the National Theater, a concert of Greek music by the Manos Hadjidakis Ensemble and the Italian Aterballetto Ballet directed by Mauro Bigonzetti.

#### Classical performances

In September, there will be two concerts by the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by Yuri Temirkanov, with works by Zbigniew Preisner and the participation of Sophia Loren. The Mozarteum of Salzburg, the Beijing Opera and the Israel Chamber Orchestra are scheduled to appear at the Herodes Atticus Theater.

The two festivals are surpassed in content by the continuous shows, concerts and operas performed all year round at the Athens Music Palace. In May, the Palace has two concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by Claudio Abbado; the Baden-Baden Radio Orchestra with Gerd Albrecht; modern music workshops and concerts by the State Orchestra of Athens and the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki. In June, the Music Palace will stage "Orpheus and Eurydice" by Gluck and concerts by the State Radio Orchestra.

General Secretary of Tourism Nikos Skoulas believes that archaeology, swimming and culture are not enough to satisfy the most demanding tourist. For this reason, the government has encouraged

the development of sports like wind surfing, golf and skiing.

Wind surfing and water skiing are possible at most organized beaches on the mainland and in the islands, where surfing gear can be rented by the hour. Wind surfing is especially good in July and August, when the challenging northern trade winds blow.

To satisfy tourists who prefer nightlife and gambling, the Greek government has encouraged the opening of casinos in several tourist centers, including the Isle of Rhodes, Mount Parnassus and the Israel Chamber Orchestra are scheduled to appear at the Herodes Atticus Theater.

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Harradine, a well-known Swiss golf architect, the 18-hole Glyfada course covers an area of 150 acres and is situated in a pine forest, a 20-minute taxi drive from the center of Athens.

"It is a very good course, and this is why it was chosen for the 1979 World Cup won by Hale Irwin and John Mahaffey," says Elly Abramovitch-Valsamidi, a veteran player.

Motivated by tourist demand, certain tourist centers have also developed golf courses. The most beautiful is the 18-hole course of the Golf Club of Corfu, an island off the northwestern coast of Greece.

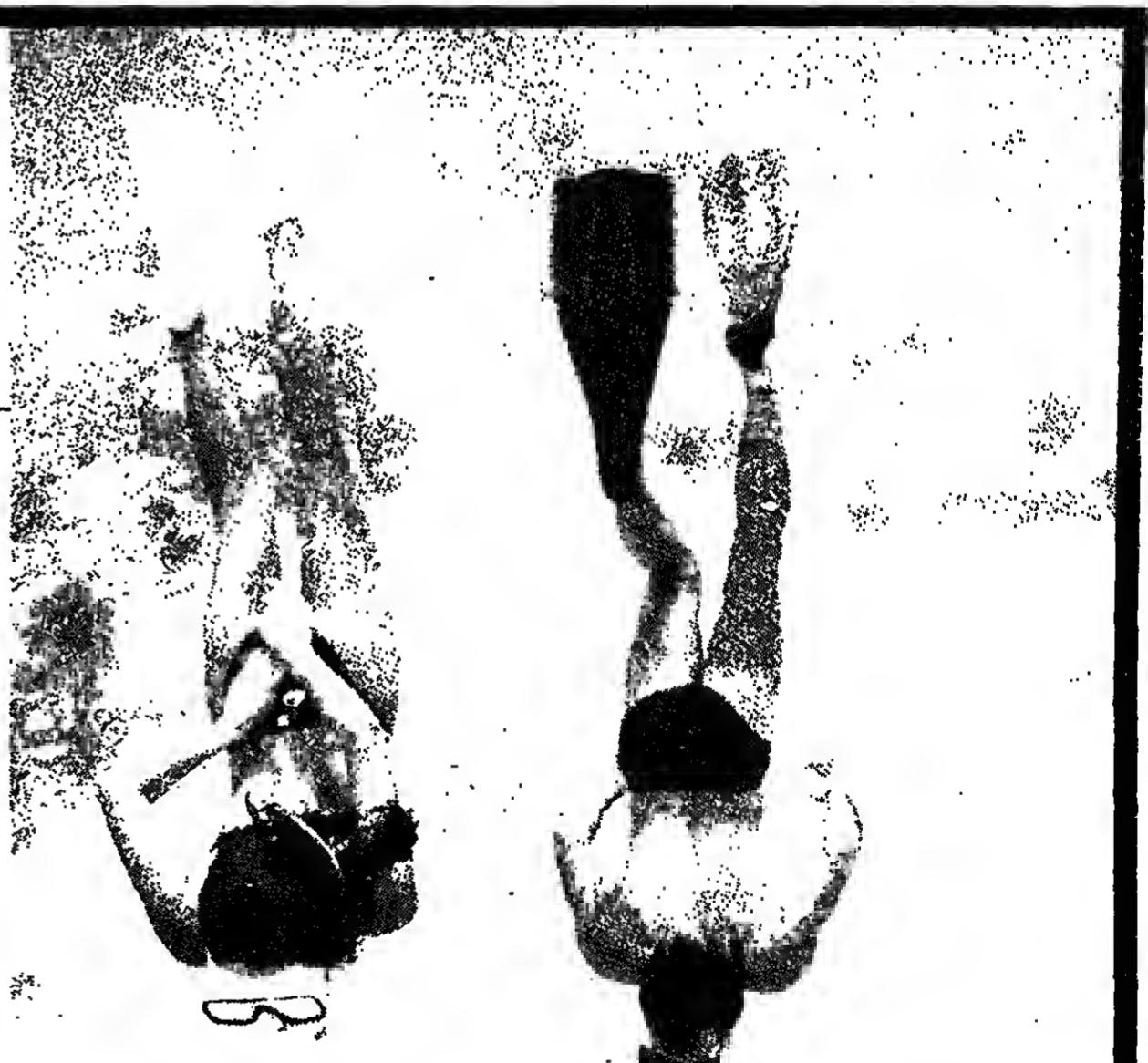
Another tourist island between the coast of Asia Minor and Crete, Rhodes has an 18-hole course in Yfantis, a village near the City of Rhodes. Another 18-hole course is operating in Port Carras, in Halkidiki, in Northern Greece. A small nine-hole course is run by the Hotel Mare in Port Eleonda in Eastern Crete.

"We actually have four and a half golf courses," says Mr. Skoulas. "They are good courses, but not enough for the number of tourists who come to Greece and want to play their favorite sport." He believes that golf can become a major attraction for tourists who want to spend off-season vacations in Greece. To increase the number of golf courses, the government is subsidizing 50 percent of the cost and is inviting both domestic and international investors to take advantage of this generous offer. ■

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**TribTech**

# Quantum Computing Takes a Quantum Leap

## Subatomic Particles Do the Work of Digital Switches in a Thimbleful of Chloroform

**By John Markoff**  
New York Times Service**S**AN FRANCISCO — Scientists have seen the future of computing in a thimbleful of chloroform.

Researchers at International Business Machines Corp., the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oxford University and the University of California at Berkeley, reported this month that they had succeeded in building the first working computers based on the principles of quantum mechanics, a branch of physics that describes the quirky world of subatomic particles where yes and no can simultaneously be true.

In a long-sought breakthrough, the scientists were able to fashion a novel computer, in which the processor consisted of atoms of hydrogen and chlorine, and then used it to sort an unordered list of items.

As recently as two years ago, the consensus among most researchers in the field was that quantum computing was a theoretical, but not practical, possibility.

The breakthrough has touched off a wave of excitement among physicists and computer scientists and is leading dozens of research centers worldwide to embark on similar experiments, heralding the advent of an era of so-called

**SITES**Los Alamos Quantum Physics E-print Archive, the source for the latest papers in quantum computing, can be found at: <http://xxx.lanl.gov/archive/quant-ph>The Quantum Computation Archive at Stanford University: [cayan.stanford.edu/qcomp](http://cayan.stanford.edu/qcomp)The Physics and Media group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: [physics-www.media.mit.edu/](http://physics-www.media.mit.edu/)**ALT / Commentary**

## Will Technology Shifts Make Microsoft a Dinosaur?

**By Denise Caruso**  
New York Times Service**N**EW YORK — Microsoft Corp. has a long-standing reputation in the personal computer industry as a school-yard bully. But recent public scrutiny has propelled the company's swaggering reputation into the mainstream.

Predicting the software giant's eventual demise has expanded into something of a national parlor game.

Even the venerable Silicon Valley research institute, SRI International, which rarely chimes in on the ideological events of the day, is now "pondering the unthinkable," as it says in its speculative report "After Microsoft."

The SRI report, actually a faux newsletter article written by the senior consultant Robert Jacobson from the vantage point of the year 2003, describes a software industry in which Microsoft has "devolved" into five separate Baby Softs. The report is posted on the Web (<http://future.sri.com/bip/AM.html>).

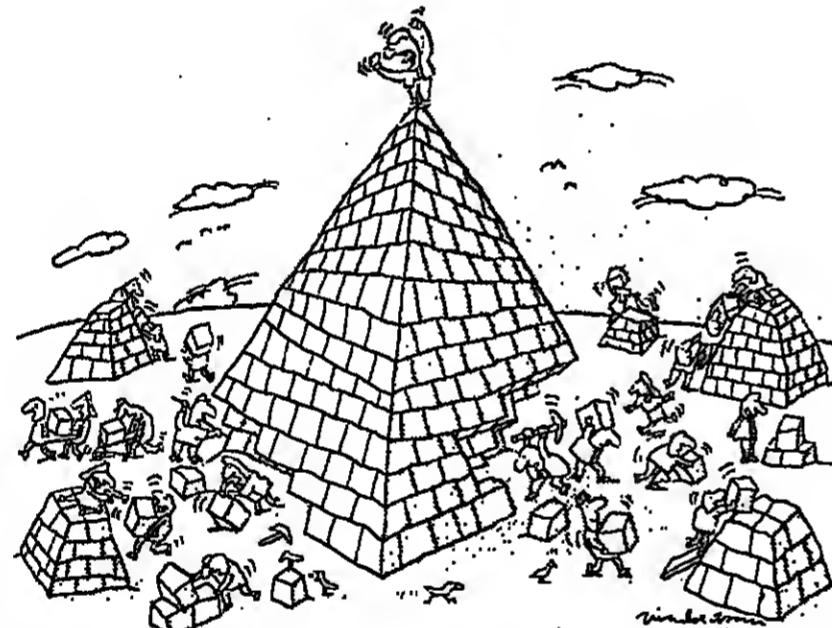
Although the current antitrust investigations do figure in Mr. Jacobson's chronicle of the company's fictional collapse, it also cites other, equally prominent factors: failure of key products to perform as promised; cross-industry competition from large publishers and media companies; unwise investments in risky new industries, and a decline in Bill Gates' focus and ability to micromanage the company.

But whether Microsoft stands or falls, a larger force will be buffeting the company, a force already making an impact not only on Microsoft but also on almost every other large corporation.

That force is technology itself.

The increasing power of technology has contributed to the vast chaos of mergers, acquisitions and strategy shifts in today's business world.

Even as giant conglomerates are forming, PCs and the global Internet are creating an increasingly favorable economic climate for smaller, more nimble companies, niche markets and custom-



ized products and services.

Corporations serving mass markets, always at the mercy of their snail-paced bureaucracies and substantial overhead, are square in the path of this inexorable march.

For example, desktop publishing, a stunning success for the PC industry in the 1980s, turned the once-monolithic publishing industry upside down, with new magazines, alternative newspapers and small book houses set up by writers and editors who could never afford access to old-line commercial printing presses. A decade later, not only are PCs serving as printing presses, but also the World Wide Web is providing global distribution for desktop publications.

Dino alternative music and independent film: Any of the countless hands or independent studios that have mixed their own CDs, or edited film or videos on a desktop computer, can testify that the cost of production has plummeted. Using the Internet, these artists can market their work — and eventually dis-

tribute it — outside the conventional clogged and costly sales channels.

Moreover, last year a long-distance telephone service reseller named Tel-Save offered America Online's customers what was then the lowest rate in the industry, 9 cents a minute, largely because the on-line service eliminated the need for direct marketing, advertising or billing. Tel-Save now has half a million customers through America Online.

Information technology, to short, is creating a shift so fundamental that not even a PC pioneer like Microsoft may know how to respond. The company is so huge, and to date has proved so unwilling to relinquish any control of its markets, that the SRI report suggests the software giant may collapse under its own weight.

Mr. Jacobson contends that Microsoft customers are already tiring of bloated software that seems designed to take up the largest possible amount of space on a hard drive, to require the largest possible amount of computer

memory and to contain every conceivable feature for the largest possible market of users.

Just as in other industries transformed by technology, software buyers are no longer bound to accept what Microsoft chooses for them.

Instead, customers may begin reaping benefits from the growing popularity of the "open source code" and component software movements, which encourage programmers and the most motivated users to customize the inner workings of operating systems and application programs.

**S**UCH trends, though, are antithetical to Microsoft, whose success is based on controlling its Windows operating system and mass-market sales of general purpose — not customized — software.

Thus, the emergent leaders may turn out to be niche producers who can quickly form and reform their businesses to respond to individual customers — a trend already in play on the Web, where software designers create "plug-in" modules that provide various types of functions upon request.

This clash between mass and niche market seems so primal that the only analogy with sufficient drama is of dying dinosaurs and the darting little mammals that survived them.

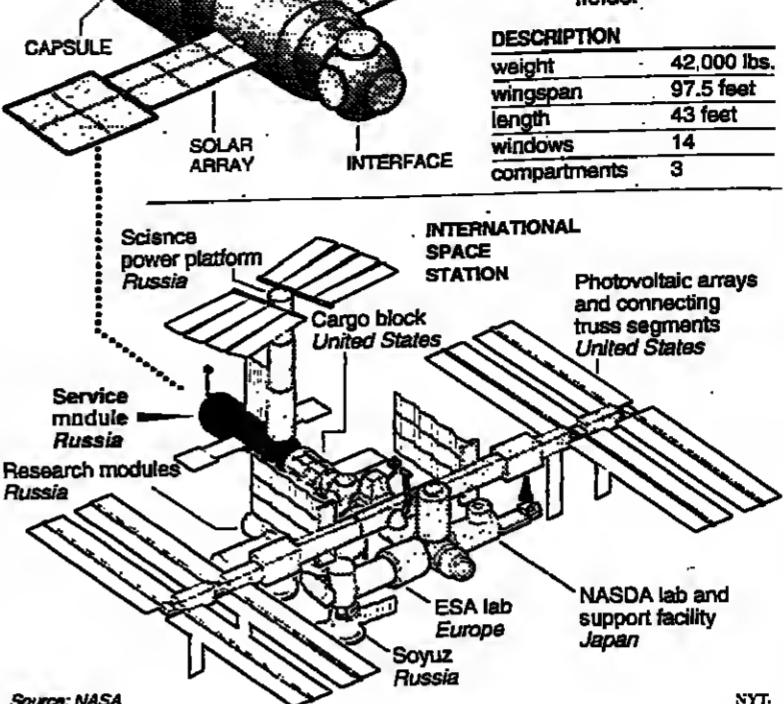
So far, only one dinosaur — the former AT&amp;T Corp., itself once the target of the Justice Department's antitrust squad — saw and embraced mammalian fleet-of-foot tactics as a survival strategy.

Having undergone a court-supervised divestiture in 1984, the corporation decided a decade later that it was still too big and could succeed only by voluntarily dismantling itself into three separate companies. So far, all three are not simply surviving, but growing and thriving.

It is highly unlikely that technology will decimate all large companies in its path — not by 2003, anyway. But certainly something is afoot — something much more fundamental than Microsoft's recent mediagenic missteps.

**Cosmic Laboratory**

Modeled after the Russian space station Mir, the service module occupies a cornerstone position, providing propulsion, life support and other key systems for the interlocking array of modules that will comprise the international space station. Scheduled to be completed in 2003, the \$30 billion station will weigh more than a million pounds (on Earth) and cover an area as big as two football fields.



Source: NASA

NYT

## Space Station Waits on Earth

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — After years of planning and promises, pieces of the proposed international space station are finally coming together. But instead of being assembled in orbit, they are stacking up at testing sites and warehouses awaiting a decision to begin putting the giant laboratory together in space.

A few days to begin rocketing the station components into space, already delayed several times by hardware and money problems, is to be set by the end of May, NASA project officials say. While there is still a good chance that assembly will start before the end of the year, they say, completing the project will probably take longer and be more expensive than predicted.

With recent word that the crucial Russian component, called the Service Module, is another three to four months behind schedule, the first assembly flight now looks likely to occur before September, experts say.

A decision on when, and how, to proceed with the space station will depend heavily on information gathered by a National Aeronautics and Space Administration team visiting Russia this week.

Over more than five years, astronauts are to assemble the station from components made by 16 countries and carried into space by 45 or more rocket flights, including more than 30 U.S. space shuttle missions. Major partners in the venture, which is expected to cost at least \$30 billion initially, are the United States, the European Space Agency, Russia, Japan and Canada.

**SITES**For detailed information from NASA on the latest developments with the space station: [station.nasa.gov/core.html](http://station.nasa.gov/core.html)The SpaceZone interactive site provides the adventure of real and imagined space exploration. It brings together historical information from over 30 years of space exploration: [www.spacezone.com/home1.html](http://www.spacezone.com/home1.html)**TECHNOLOGY INDEX**

A glance at technology stock indexes around the world

North America	Tuesday close	% change previous week	% change year to date
Pacific Stock Exchange Technology	350.13	-2.51	+20.50
Standard & Poor's Technology Composite	859.96	-2.19	+22.86
Europe			
Morgan Stanley Eurotec	547.07	-3.21	+42.02
Asia			
Topix Electric	1760.53	-0.69	+7.08

Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News

For technology articles from the past week, see the Technology Index on the IHT's World Wide Web site at <http://www.iht.com>. Articles include:

- Acer to Buy Siemens' PC Plant, April 24
- Investors Seek Hyperlink to Riches, April 24
- Compaq Sets Share Buyback, April 24
- U.S. to Let Comsat Fly Free, April 25-26
- Nokia Profit Rises 59% on Network Sales, April 25-26
- Inquiry Examines Windows' Desktop, April 27
- Japan Venture: Satellites to Cars, April 28
- 53.5 Billion Spur to IBM's Shares, April 28
- Telekom's Net is Robust Despite New Rivals, April 29

To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT technology coverage, send e-mail to [tribtech@iht.com](mailto:tribtech@iht.com).

International Herald Tribune

**BRIEFLY**

• TWINKLE, TWINKLE, SATELLITE: Stargazers have been seeing some strange lights flashing across the night sky.

No, they're neither UFOs nor a government secret, they're "Iridium flares," an astral phenomenon created by the world's newest satellite constellation. Since Iridium began launching its 66 low-orbiting satellites last year, people around the world have begun noticing brilliant flashes of light when they look toward the stars. No telescope is necessary.

"We watch them every night," said David Sands of the Austin Astronomical Society. "You'll be looking up in the sky, see a satellite moving, very faint, then it gets brighter," he said. Others say they resemble the beam of a car headlight.

The flares appear when rays from the sun reflect off shiny aluminum surfaces on Iridium satellites' antennas. Because the 66 satellites cross the sky at a low, 421-mile-high orbit (674 kilometers), the reflections are brighter and more frequent than similar flashes created by higher, traditional geostationary satellites.

How do you know where, and when, to look for the flares? The German Space Operations Center takes away much of the guesswork through its Web site: [www.gsoc.dlr.de/satvisi](http://www.gsoc.dlr.de/satvisi). By entering the name of your town (or your



Koko, who went on-line this week, was first exposed to computers in 1995.

America Online Inc. and EnviroLink, which together with the Gorilla Foundation near San Francisco set up the event to publicize the plight of the world's great apes.

Koko, who is 26, was seen as the

latitude and longitude coordinates), the Web site calculates the best time and sky position to see a flare from an Iridium satellite.

The Iridium consortium, which is led by Motorola Inc., said Tuesday the last seven of its satellites were to be launched in the next 10 days, and that commercial service would start Sept. 23.

The \$5 billion Iridium network will be the first system of its kind allowing telephone service and paging to and from virtually any point on the globe. But the service will come at a price: The hand-held phones will cost \$3,000 and air time is expected to cost about \$3 per minute. Iridium is offering subsidized service to developing countries whose governments sign partnership agreements.

• WHERE'S THE FOOD?: Koko the 300-pound (135-kilogram) gorilla logged on to the Internet this week — and clearly was not impressed.

During what was billed as the world's first "interspecies" on-line chat Monday, Koko was far more interested in her toy alligator and dreams of dinner than in answering a barrage of questions from thousands of eager humans.

"I like drinks," Koko signaled, in one of her more lucid comments during the 45-minute dialogue. "Apple drink."

Koko's foray into the high-tech world of Internet chat rooms was sponsored by

obvious on-line ambassador for her species. Raised and trained near San Francisco, she has studied modified American Sign Language for 25 years and is now said to understand some 2,000 words of spoken English.

But only a few of these were put into play during Monday's discussion.

Kevin Connolly, a spokesman for the Gorilla Foundation, said the cyberspace had gone as well as could be expected and that Koko had actually been cut off at times because the human entering her responses could not type fast enough.

Koko herself seemed unimpressed. After stop-and-go conversation, the gorilla finally pulled the plug on her Internet audience with a short, sharp command. "Lights off. Good," Koko said.

(Reuters)

• I NEED TO SEE SOME ID.: Forget your personal identification number — if you ever managed to memorize it. New cash machines to be unveiled in Britain on Thursday will do away with secret codes and dispense money at the blink of an eye.

The manufacturers said the system, which they described as the first in the world, would be secure.

Customers will have a digital picture of their iris taken the first time they go to the bank. A camera mounted on the cash machine will scan their eye every time they want to withdraw money. Only if the iris matches the details stored in a central data base will the transaction proceed.

"The system is foolproof because each person's iris is unique and above all the iris doesn't change throughout life, so it's safer than fingerprints," said

Richard Lander, a spokesman for NCR Financial Solutions Group of Britain, a subsidiary of NCR Corp. of the United States.

NCR Financial Solutions, a maker of automated-teller machines that developed the system with Sensar Inc., said the iris technology could have other uses. "Standard machines are already used to sell cinema tickets, or for stock certificates," Mr. Lander said.

The iris-recognition technology, developed in Scotland, will first be available to customers at a branch of the Nationwide Building Society in Swindon, England. While Britons are happy to embrace new technologies to meet their banking needs, they have no intention of giving up their local branch, according to the results of a poll released Wednesday.

• YOUR CHECK'S IN THE E-MAIL: The U.S. Treasury will launch an electronic check pilot program before the end of the year to streamline its payments to government vendors, said John Hawke, undersecretary for domestic finance.

The government and recipients of the e-check will have a computer chip-armed smart card, which can be plugged into a personal computer. Once transmitted, the check is endorsed with a digital signature, Mr. Hawke said.

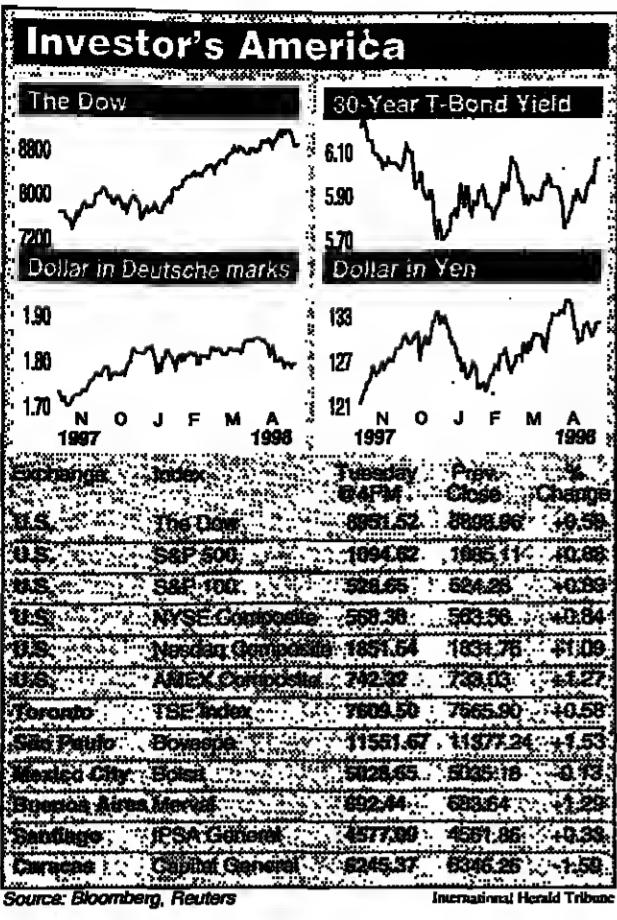
(Bloomberg)

**CURRENCY**

Cross Rates  
Forward Rates  
Interest Rates  
Liquidity  
Market Watch  
Policy Rates  
Trade Data



## THE AMERICAS



# Airfare-Bidding Web Site Draws Flak Interest-Rate 'Bullet' Fails to Stop the Bulls

By Carolyn Spencer Brown  
*Washington Post Service*

WASHINGTON — How much is an airline seat worth?

Priceline.com, a new World Wide Web-based ticket bidding service, says it lets customers name their own price by submitting a bid for seats on domestic and international flights by major airlines anytime between two days and six months before departure.

Priceline, an accredited Connecticut travel agency, sifts through a database of airfares to see if an airline is willing to match the bid.

There are plenty of catches. In exchange for the privilege of naming the price, which may not be accepted, customers are subject to some of the tightest restrictions in the low-fare game. For instance, they must agree to accept any "matching" bids, sight unseen, and do so with a credit card number upon bidding.

Customers may not specify an airline and they get no frequent-flier miles. They have no say aside from the dates in scheduling and little choice in airports.

A bid for a flight to San Antonio, Texas, for example, may obligate the buyer to accept a ticket to Austin, which is an hour away.

Tickets are nonexchangeable and nonrefundable. Tom Parsons, editor of Best Fares magazine, which operates a competing members-only low-fare information service on the Web, said: "There's a lot of type but no snuff there."

The implication that Priceline.com's "name your price" philosophy gives consumers bargaining power with airlines eager to part with unsold seats is misleading.

Attempts to use the service and interviews with successful and unsuccessful bidders found that:

• Priceline has some good deals, but it is impossible to predict what will cost one. Several customers said they would have done better buying a ticket through conventional channels.

But America West sold a Washington-San Francisco flight to one flier who bid \$500 less than a week before departure. The airline normally charges \$1,100 for a seven-day advance purchase.

• Priceline is not free. The first bid on a trip is not charged, but if the price is rejected, additional bids cost \$25 each.

"I hate it," said Margaret Guroff, a Baltimore traveler who attempted, without success, to buy a ticket to Peru. "It's a huge psychological game, all rigged so you offer too much. You feel like you got taken."

## Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — Stocks closed higher Wednesday, rising after a five-day slump on expectations that a strong economy will lift profits.

The Dow Jones industrial average

closed at 8,951.52, up 52.56 points,

with advancing issues outnumbering

declining ones by a 9-to-5 ratio

on the New York Stock Exchange.

The core underpinnings of the

economy remain strong," said

Timothy O'Grady, a money manager at First Capital Group, a unit

of a negative development for the stock market, "it's just the first shot across the bow — it's not going to sink the ship yet," he said.

Among active Big Board stocks,

General Electric, AlliedSignal, Ford, Eaton, Sears and Masco rose.

Dayton Hudson, another eco-

nomically sensitive stock, rose.

The retailer said Tuesday that same-

store sales at its department stores

and Target discount chain rose more

than it expected for the month

through April 25.

Drug stocks fared poorly following the news that Pharmacia &amp; Upjohn's first-quarter profit slipped 3 percent as overseas sales were hit by the rise of the dollar. While the results were good enough to stem a three-week, 8 percent decline in Pharmacia's stock, they did little to ease concerns about the industry's prospects. Pfizer, Schering-Plough and Eli Lilly fell.

Merck, the largest U.S. pharmaceutical company, fell a day after the company told investors it would look to new products and more advertising and marketing, not mergers, to keep increasing profit after patents expire on four of its top-selling drugs in 2000 and 2001.

Computer shares rose, continuing to benefit from comments Monday by a Dell Computer executive that shipments in the industry could grow up to 20 percent this year. Dell, Hewlett-Packard, Gateway 2000, IBM and Data General rose.

Bonds fell on the prospect of interest-rate volatility. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was at 100 24/32, down 1/32, leaving the yield unchanged at 6.07 percent.

## U.S. STOCKS

First Union National Bank with about \$20 billion in assets. "The economy is still expanding, we've got low inflation and good corporate profit growth."

Broker market indicators also were higher. The Standard &amp; Poor's 500-stock index finished up 9.51 points at 1,094.62, and the Nasdaq composite index, which is laden with technology stocks, rose 19.87 points to 1,851.64.

Stocks fell in the past week amid concern that the Federal Reserve Board might raise interest rates this year to keep the economy from overheating and causing inflation to accelerate.

The dollar was at 132.355 yen, compared with 132.195 yen.

Against other major currencies the dollar fended off 1,4978 Swiss francs, compared with 1,4923 francs, and was at 6,0217 French francs, compared with 6,0200 francs. The pound was at \$1.6703, compared with \$1.6675.

(Market News, Bridge News)

## Tietmeyer Remarks Briefly Shake Dollar

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar edged higher against the Deutsche mark Wednesday despite remarks by the president of the Bundesbank that were interpreted as keeping the door open to higher German rates in the near term, traders said.

Hans Tietmeyer said the level at which European interest rates would converge by the end of the year "depends on further developments in the entire euro zone." He added that the Bundesbank's monetary policy would have to take the new currency area into account.

Just days ahead of a key European meeting this weekend, the market is particularly sensitive to any references to European interest rates, whether specific or not, traders said.

The dollar had fallen early in the

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE

day on Mr. Tietmeyer's comments.

The dollar was quoted at 4 P.M. at 1,7958 DM in late trading Wednesday, up from 1,7940 DM.

The dollar was relatively steady against the yen, finding support

from remarks late Tuesday from the U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, who said the key to Japan's recovery lies in fundamental economic policy, not in foreign exchange market intervention.

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(Market News, Bridge News)

## Viacom Sails Back to Profit As 'Titanic' Buys Earnings

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Viacom Inc. said Wednesday it earned \$1.4 million in the first quarter, reversing a loss from the same period last year, on the strength of "Titanic" and its cable networks.

Revenue rose 6 percent, to \$3.09 billion. Viacom posted a loss of \$18.7 million in the quarter last year.

Earnings from networks and broadcasting rose 7 percent, reflecting higher advertising revenue from the cable channels MTV, VH-1 and Nickelodeon. Earnings before interest, taxes and other items unrelated to operations, rose 3 percent to \$405.7 million.

The results were better than many analysts expected, and Viacom stock was up \$1.875 in late trading, at \$57.5625.

"Titanic" was the first film in history to take in more than \$1 billion. The film, co-produced by Viacom's Paramount Pictures and News Corp.'s 20th Century Fox, has grossed \$1.6 billion so far.

## Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

The 300 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.

The Associated Press

Stock Sales High Low Lastd Chgs

Rate 'Bull'  
top the Bull

EUROPE

## Vickers Agrees to Sell Rolls-Royce to BMW

By Tom Buerkle  
*International Herald Tribune*

**LONDON** — The British owners of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd. reached a formal agreement Wednesday to sell the luxury automobile to Bayerische Motoren Werke AG, a move that significantly strengthened BMW's bid but left room for a possible last-minute rival from Volkswagen AG.

The \$340 million (\$567.2 million) deal fulfills an agreement in principle reached between Vickers PLC, the British defense company that owns Rolls-Royce, and BMW a month ago.

Executives at Volkswagen said the deal was not final and renewed promises to submit a higher bid before an extraordinary meeting of Vickers shareholders in June, at which they will vote on the sale.

But analysts said it would be extremely difficult, and expensive, for Volkswagen to prevail now that BMW had obtained the formal backing of Vickers' board.

"The betting has to be that BMW runs away with it," said John Lawson, an automotive analyst at Salomon Smith Barney.

Sir Colin Chandler, chairman and chief executive of Vickers, defended the agreement at the company's annual shareholders meeting in London on Wednesday. The sale would guarantee a bright future for Rolls-Royce thanks to the deep pockets and technological expertise of BMW, he said. The deal would also allow Vickers to focus on its core business of propulsion systems and defense contracting, he added.

Vickers would examine any late bid from Volkswagen, Sir Colin said, but be indicated impatience that VW had not followed up its expressions of interest with a formal offer.



A worker at the Rolls-Royce plant in Crewe, England, putting the final touches on a Silver Seraph.

"We have a real deal with BMW," Sir Colin said. "Anything else is hypothetical. There is no other offer on the table. If one is made, we would examine it in light of shareholders' best interests."

In Germany, a spokesman for Volkswagen insisted that the Vickers-BMW agreement had not altered the bidding contest and said Volkswagen would make a higher offer before the June meeting of Vickers shareholders. "We have the time, and the possibility, to make a better bid," he said.

Volkswagen's supervisory board met last weekend to consider a bid, and German press reports have suggested the company could offer \$700 million for Rolls and an additional \$300 million for Vicks-

ers' Cosworth engine subsidiary, which is not covered in the BMW agreement. Volkswagen also has indicated it would invest some \$2.2 billion to expand Rolls-Royce production to 10,000 cars a year from 1,900 currently.

BMW has promised to invest some \$1.6 billion over 10 years to triple production at Rolls-Royce's plant in Crewe, England, to about 9,000 cars a year.

Colin Fell, an analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson Securities, said Volkswagen could reopen the contest by making a substantially higher offer.

But Vickers executives appeared to raise the bar, saying the BMW offer was worth just over \$400 million, including guarantees of sub-

contracting work to Vickers units. Mr. Lawson said the odds were increasingly stacked against Volkswagen. "We haven't seen the color of their money yet," he said. "Vickers' statement is indicating that there is a certain irritation there."

Whoever prevails, the prospect of Britain's last automotive maker and such a prestigious brand passing into foreign hands left many Vickers' shareholders harboring deep regrets.

"By selling the jewels in our industrial crown, we're assured of becoming the poor man of Europe," said Donald Longmore, the secretary of a Rolls owners' group that failed to mount a British bid for the company.

## Irish Company to Buy U.S. Drug Maker for \$700 Million

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

**DUBLIN** — Elan Corp. said Wednesday it had agreed to acquire Neurex Corp., a U.S. drug maker, in a stock swap worth \$700 million.

The deal values Neurex at \$31.81 per share, Elan said. In late trading Wednesday, Neurex shares were quoted at \$28.8125, up \$9.0625, on the Nasdaq stock market.

Elan said the deal was expected to reduce its earnings per share by 5 percent in both 1998 and 1999. It said earnings per share would grow in subsequent years.

Elan, set up in Dublin in 1969 by Don Panoz, an American who became an Irish citizen, will have spent \$2 billion making acquisitions in the last two years.

By buying Neurex, the company wants to branch into a new area, drugs for pain.

"It is not the largest deal we have ever done, but it is very significant enhancement of our direct pharmaceuticals business," said Tom Lynch, the company's finance director.

Neurex, whose best-selling product is the hypertension drug Corlopam, operates in one of the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. drug market: developing painkillers for people afflicted by heart and nerve diseases. The company said it would soon seek U.S. regulatory approval to sell its Ziconotide painkiller.

Elan develops products to improve the absorption of drugs by the body and specializes in medicines to treat diseases of the nervous system,

including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis.

Under the deal, Elan will exchange 0.51 American depositary receipt for each Neurex share in a tax-free transaction expected to be completed in the third quarter of 1998.

Elan will take a one-time charge against earnings for the write-off of acquired in-process research and development costs at Neurex.

Mr. Lynch said the Neurex acquisition, combined with Athena Neurosciences Inc., which it acquired in 1996 for \$630 million, and the \$150-million acquisition in April of Carrick Laboratories Inc., gave Elan a drug-products division "which is beginning to assemble critical mass."

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**Wednesday, April 29**

Prices in local currencies.

**Tel Aviv**

High 49.30 Low 49.20 Prev. 50

**Amsterdam**

High 112.43 Low 112.43 Prev. 112.43

**Atlanta**

High 25.00 Low 25.00 Prev. 25.00

**Austria**

High 10.40 Low 10.40 Prev. 10.40

**Azerbaijan**

High 1.00 Low 1.00 Prev. 1.00

**Barbados**

High 1.00 Low 1.00 Prev. 1.00

**Bangkok**

SET Index 417.45 Prev. 417.45

**Bahrain**

High 1.00 Low 1.00 Prev. 1.00

**Baku**

High 1.00 Low 1.00 Prev. 1.00

**Bahrain**

High 1.00 Low 1.00 Prev. 1.00

NYSE

**Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close**  
The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.  
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere  
**The Associated Press.**

The Performance Page							
12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	\$100 High	Late Low/Lated Chgs

A-B-C									
224	20	AAR	3	24	1.3	22	524	26%	25%
37	100	ARM		24	1.4	24	202	20%	20%

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# Determination in the art of asset management



**Lombard Odier**

11, rue de la Corraterie - 1204 Geneva - Switzerland

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	52 Wk			12 Month High	12 Month Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	52 Wk				
						100%	High	Low	Last	Chg					100%	High	Low		
2645 16	16	DeutTel	.256	14	4050	24%	25%	25%	25%	+1%	3099 22	22	Foundry	-	-	22	22	22	22
4249 364	364	DevDev	.65	26	171	33%	33%	33%	33%	+1%	3099 22	22	FourS	.9	1.50	1110	33	33	33
4249 355	355	Deser	1.84	24	16	171	40%	40%	40%	+1%	14 22	22	France	1.50	11.3	53	124	124	124
3171 355	355	Digicore	.850	17	134	49%	49%	49%	49%	+1%	2844 22	22	FranFin	1.88	7.3	152	22	22	22
4249 326	326	DinDip	.45	22	22	163	20%	20%	20%	+1%	2844 22	22	FronCor	-	-	123	22	22	22
4249 314	314	DishOffs	.5	17	22	163	20%	20%	20%	+1%	16 22	22	Fri	1.25	12	244	22	22	22
5524 324	324	Diamond	.624	14	22	2970	40%	30%	30%	+1%	972 22	22	FriPr	1.5	8.5	22	22	22	22
4249 304	304	Digital	.24	17	12	555	54%	54%	54%	+1%	1024 22	22	FriPrs	.5	2.25	21910	55	55	55
2644 294	294	DigitOp	.22	8.5	15	193	25%	25%	25%	+1%	41 22	22	FriPrs	.5	2.25	21910	55	55	55
4249 304	304	Dillards	.44	22	22	3444	30%	29%	29%	+1%	24 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
2216 164	164	DinCorp	.26	47	22	144	14%	14%	14%	+1%	24 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
5019 174	174	Diman	.24	47	22	144	14%	14%	14%	+1%	47 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
2744 174	174	DinDip	.45	22	22	207	30%	30%	30%	+1%	47 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
19 14%	14%	DistrExpo	.2	45	22	144	14%	14%	14%	+1%	47 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
2744 204	204	DistrExpo	.4	19	2119	44%	44%	44%	44%	+1%	231 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
4016 194	194	Dollars	.162	14	44	4051	37%	37%	37%	+1%	317 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
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474 214	214	Domin	.1	12	22	1113	34%	36%	36%	+1%	18 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
2744 214	214	Domin	.28	14	22	1113	34%	36%	36%	+1%	18 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
10 594	594	Domin	.1	12	22	1303	21%	21%	21%	+1%	18 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
4016 214	214	Domin	.18	14	22	144	22%	22%	22%	+1%	18 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
174 214	214	Domin	.50	13	12	1302	94	91	91	+1%	18 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
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3644 184	184	Dow Jones	.05	9	21	207	44%	44%	44%	+1%	18 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
1279 194	194	Dreer	.76	14	22	202	10%	10%	10%	+1%	47 22	22	FriMac	.4	1.7	221344	44	44	44
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**Continued on Page 18**

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CASTLE

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13

## ASIA/PACIFIC

**IMF Asks 'Extra Effort' of Jakarta**

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

**SINGAPORE** — Indonesia will have to work doubly hard to restore confidence in its economy, an official of the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday, amid mounting protests over the government's handling of the country's financial crisis.

"It is also clear that authorities need to make the extra effort because of the time they have lost in convincing the private sector at home and abroad" that they were serious in carrying out reforms, said Flemming Larsen, deputy director of research for the IMF.

But he said it was his belief that the Fund's third agreement with Jakarta, reached this month, would help alleviate Indonesia's economic problems.

Indonesian stocks fell sharply on fears that the IMF might delay part of its \$40 billion rescue package.

IMF officials are scheduled to meet Monday in

Washington to decide whether to approve the next loan included in the rescue package. Loans had been suspended amid concerns that President Suharto was backtracking on pledges to reform the economy.

Jakarta's benchmark composite index slipped 20.39 points, or 4.19 percent, to close at 465.25.

Bank Indonesia, meanwhile, said Wednesday that it had met the performance criteria on monetary indicators set by the IMF for April 24.

But Standard & Poor's Corp. expressed concern Wednesday that the restructuring of the Indonesian banking sector was not proceeding as quickly as first believed, and lagged behind that of regional neighbors such as Thailand and Malaysia.

The Fund's liaison officer for Indonesia, Prabhakar Narvekar, said he believed there was no problem with implementation. (AFP, AP, Reuters)

**Fraud Case Touches Deng Clan**

Reuters

**SHANGHAI** — China is pressing criminal fraud charges against top executives of a publicly traded company in a politically charged scandal that brushes close to the family of Deng Xiaoping, the late paramount leader.

Official media reported Wednesday that Ma Yuhe, former chairman of Minyuan Modern Agriculture Development Co., and other associates would face criminal proceedings for suspected fraud in the company's financial statement.

Chinese authorities also fined a Minyuan shareholder, Shenzhen Nonferrous Metals Finance, and seized illegal profits that it made from trading in Minyuan's shares on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

The shareholder's corporate parent, China National Nonferrous Metals Corp., was headed by Wu Jianchang, a son-in-law of Mr. Deng, until early this year.

Minyuan, which is based in the southern province of Hainan, was suspected of fraudulently adding more than 1 billion yuan (\$120.8 million) to its 1996 accounts, Shanghai Securities News reported.

It said Minyuan also was found to have violated tax laws and regulations governing land administration and joint-venture regulations.

Shenzhen Nonferrous had helped finance purchases of Minyuan shares before the announcement of the sharply improved profit for 1996.

Minyuan's shares were suspended from trading in early March 1997 after the stock price rocketed.

Shenzhen Nonferrous and another Minyuan shareholder, Minyuan Hainan, made combined profits of more than 130 million yuan. The illegal profits were seized and each company was fined 2 million yuan, according to the official report.



BANKERS' RALLY — Chaiyawat Wibulsawadi, governor of the Thai central bank, addressing supportive employees Wednesday. He and the bank have come under fire in the wake of the crisis.

**Rising Baht Helps Siam Net**

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

**BANGKOK** — Thailand's largest conglomerate, Siam Cement PCL, said Wednesday a foreign-exchange windfall from the strengthening baht helped it post a profit in the first quarter.

The company, which makes about half the cement used in Thailand, said consolidated profit in the first quarter was 24.3 billion baht (\$626.3 million), compared with a loss of 30.6 billion baht in the fourth quarter. Siam Cement earned 1.9 billion baht in the first quarter of last year, before Thailand devalued its currency.

But the company said its profit before foreign-exchange gains fell 19 per-

cent to 1.5 billion baht. The drop was due primarily to "the higher cost of interest payments on offshore loans made in foreign currencies," the company said. Revenue from exports doubled, helping compensate for a 22 percent decline in domestic sales. Consolidated revenue rose 2 percent, to 32.6 billion baht.

Analysts said they were encouraged by Siam Cement's first-quarter earnings despite the large proportion of foreign-exchange gains, but they warned that the company still stood to suffer from the economic downturn.

Siam Cement shares rose 4 baht, to 438. (Bloomberg, AFP)

**Seoul's New Targets**

Accord With IMF Paves Way for More Aid

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

**SEOUL** — South Korea and the International Monetary Fund agreed Wednesday on new targets for the country's economy, including a forecast of the first recession since 1980, in a review that will pave the way for more international aid, an IMF official said.

The IMF and the government agreed that the economy will shrink 1 percent this year, down from their projection of 1 percent growth made in February. After two weeks of talks, they also agreed to let the government run a larger budget deficit than earlier planned.

The budget deficit now will be allowed to equal to 1.75 percent of gross domestic product, up from 0.8 percent. This is a reflection of the shrinking economy and will entitle South Korea to budget more funds for the jobless after the unemployment rate surged to a 12-year high of 6.5 percent in March.

The talks were part of the second quarterly review of the economy since the IMF arranged a record \$60 billion bailout in December to prevent South Korea from going broke.

John Dodsworth, an IMF representative in Seoul, said, "We are hopeful the new program will be brought to the IMF board by the third week of May."

South Korea needs to keep the IMF happy to keep receiving aid and to bolster its foreign-currency reserves. Any disagreement, as has occurred between the IMF and Indonesia, could dent the foreign investors' confidence and send financial markets into a tailspin.

The IMF, which has lent \$15 billion to South Korea since December, will disperse about \$2 billion in May, pending the board's approval.

Meanwhile, government figures released Wednesday showed that tight economic policies have cut into South Korea's industrial production in March but resulted in a substantial surplus on the current account.

Industrial output in March fell 10.1 percent from a year earlier, compared with a 7.1 percent annual rise seen in March 1997, the National Statistical Office said.

The central bank, the Bank of Korea, reported a current-account surplus of \$3.70 billion in the month, compared with a \$1.81 billion deficit a year before.

"Domestic demand for consumption and investment was simply collapsing after the International Monetary Fund imposed the austerity regime last December," said Kwon Oh Bong, director of the office's industrial trends division.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

**World Bank Says Philippines Faces 'Unavoidable' Slowdown**

Agence France-Presse

The report said prices would rise as inventories of goods and raw materials, built up before the regional crisis began last fall, are depleted.

Unemployment also is likely to rise because of "layoffs in the corporate sector and slower job creation following the slowdown of growth," the report said, giving no figures.

Unemployment will also rise if some of the 4 million Filipinos working abroad return home because of a slower job market overseas.

The World Bank warned that the May 11 presidential election also heightened risks because it was not yet certain if the new administration would follow the policies of the outgoing government.

Earlier this week, official sources said that the World Bank would cut its assistance to the Philippines by nearly 75 percent should Manila fail to keep to an economic program tied to an IMF standby loan.

**Investor's Asia**

Hong Kong	Singapore	Tokyo
Hang Seng	Strata Times	Nikkei 225
13000 12000 11000 10000 9000 8000	2000 1800 1600 1400 1200 1000	17500 17000 16000 15800 15200 14500
1997 N D J F M A 1998 N D J F M A	1997 N D J F M A 1998 N D J F M A	1997 N D J F M A 1998 N D J F M A
Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close Close % Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	16,471.15 16,471.15 -1.94
Singapore	Strata Times	1,502.13 1,481.77 +1.87
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,749.10 2,751.30 -1.16
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	Closed 15,395.43 -
Kuala Lumpur Composite	... 622.63 +0.33	+0.33
Bangkok	SET	412.25 419.55 +1.74
Seoul	Composite Index	417.05 402.39 +3.64
Taipei	Stock Market Index	8,348.35 8,454.57 +1.02
Manila	PSE	2,133.98 2,126.69 +0.34
Jakarta	Composite Index	4,652.47 4,655.61 +4.20
Wellington	NZSE 40	2,250.13 2,240.09 +0.45
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,970.28 4,082.85 +2.76

Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

**Very briefly:**

• France's president, Jacques Chirac, on a state visit to Japan, said he was confident of a recovery in the Japanese economy, with growth at "around 2 percent" for the year ending in March 1999.

• Hong Kong's new mortgage lending jumped 54.4 percent in March, to 12.6 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$15.63 billion), after hitting a two-year low of 8.2 billion dollars in February, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said.

• Burma's military regime has ordered air courier companies not linked to Myanmar DHL Ltd., its joint-venture with DHL Worldwide Express, to cease operations, a junta information sheet said.

• PT Indocement Tunggal Prakarsa, one of Indonesia's big three cement makers and the fifth-largest company on the Jakarta stock exchange, posted a 378 billion rupiah (\$46.8 million) loss in 1997, compared with a profit of \$51 billion rupiah in 1996, as the rupiah's collapse continued to hurt.

• Singapore Airlines Ltd. said it had expressed interest in buying a stake in Thai Airways International.

• Delphi Automotive Systems, a unit of General Motors Corp., and Shanghai Car Air-conditioner Co. have set up China's largest car conditioner joint venture in Shanghai, Business News reported.

• Beijing plans to spend 116.5 billion yuan (\$14.07 billion) on a massive public-works program, including completing a subway through the heart of Beijing and building a new "quick-response" railway system, the official China Daily reported. The program is expected to be completed in time for next year's 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

• AXA Investment Managers agreed to buy Barclays Global Investors Hong Kong Ltd. from Barclays Bank PLC. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

• India's central bank announced a 1 percentage point cut in the bank rate, to 9 percent, as part of wide-ranging measures to combat an economic slowdown. (AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

**EDAP TMS S.A.**  
4, rue du Dauphiné, 69128 Vaulx-en-Velin, France

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING**  
Shareholders are convened to attend a General Meeting to be held on May 14th, 1998 at 10:30 a.m. (French Time), at - La Cour des Loges - 6 Rue du Bois, 69005 Lyon, France, to consider the following agenda:  
Agenda related to the decision of Ordinary Annual Shareholders Meeting:  
• Approval of Executive Board's report on 1997 financial statements, approval of Supervisory Board's report;  
• Approval of statutory auditors' report on 1997 general and consolidated statements;  
• Approval of statutory auditors' special report;  
• Approval of 1997 financial statements;  
• Attendance fees to the Supervisory Board members;  
• Ratification of a new member of the Supervisory Board;  
• Renewal of the Supervisory Board's members appointments;  
Agenda related to the decision of Extraordinary Annual Shareholders Meeting:  
• Authorization to the Executive Board to purchase shares of the Company necessary to grant to employees new share purchase options.

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**INGERSOLL-RAND COMPANY (CDRs)**

The undersigned announces that as from 4 May, 1998 at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam, div. epo, no. 102 of the CDR's Ingersoll-Rand Company each rep. 5 shares will be payable with NLG. 1.29 net. (div. per rec. date 18.11.97 gross S 0.15 pmb) after deduction of 15% (USA-tax = S 0.125 - NLG. 0.22 per CDR. CDRs belonging to non-residents of The Netherlands will be paid after deduction of an additional 15% US-tax (= S 0.1125 = NLG. 0.22 with NLG. 0.07 net).

AMSTERDAM DEPOSITORY COMPANY N.V.  
Amsterdam, April 27, 1998

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

\$180,000,000



CASTLE HARLAN PARTNERS II, L.P.

has sold

MAG  
AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES, INC.

to

ZODIAC S.A.

The undersigned assisted in the negotiations and acted as advisor to Castle Harlan Partners II, L.P.

CASTLE HARLAN, INC.

April 30, 1998

New York



While the whole world was sleeping, one nation woke to freedom.

It was the stroke of midnight August 15, 1947, and India was set free. On the occasion of the 50th year of

Independence, we salute the spirit of a free India. And as her  
largest bank, pledge to be her partner in progress forever.

**State Bank of India**  
Celebrating 50 years of Independence

State Bank of India, International Division, 15th Floor, Madame Cama Road, Post Box No. 10121, Mumbai 400 021, India. Tel: 202 2426. Fax: 222 204 073/265 1301. Overseas Offices: New York • Chicago • Los Angeles • Toronto • London • Paris • Frankfurt • Antwerp • Hong Kong • Singapore • Tokyo • Osaka • Colombo • Male • Dhaka • Bahrain • Lagos • Bhutan • Washington • São Paulo • Dubai • Muscat • Cairo • Jakarta • Milan • Teheran • Moscow • Harare • Manila • Mauritius • Vietnam • Tashkent • Nepal • Johannesburg • Shanghai

Chaitra Leo Burnett M SID 801497

## NASDAQ

Wednesday's 4 P.M.

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities  
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.  
The Associated Press

Wednesday's 4 P.M.									
12 Month High	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	1000-High	Low	Last	Chg	12 Month Low
222	Nefco Int'l	1.00	12	12	121.4	121.4	121.4	-0.1	118.0
223	Nestle	1.00	12	12	121.2	121.2	121.2	-0.1	118.0
224	Nicor Gas	1.00	12	12	120.0	120.0	120.0	-0.1	118.0
225	Nicor Inc	1.00	12	12	119.8	119.8	119.8	-0.1	118.0
226	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	119.6	119.6	119.6	-0.1	118.0
227	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	119.4	119.4	119.4	-0.1	118.0
228	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	119.2	119.2	119.2	-0.1	118.0
229	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	119.0	119.0	119.0	-0.1	118.0
230	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	118.8	118.8	118.8	-0.1	118.0
231	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	118.6	118.6	118.6	-0.1	118.0
232	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	118.4	118.4	118.4	-0.1	118.0
233	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	118.2	118.2	118.2	-0.1	118.0
234	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	118.0	118.0	118.0	-0.1	118.0
235	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	117.8	117.8	117.8	-0.1	118.0
236	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	117.6	117.6	117.6	-0.1	118.0
237	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	117.4	117.4	117.4	-0.1	118.0
238	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	117.2	117.2	117.2	-0.1	118.0
239	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	117.0	117.0	117.0	-0.1	118.0
240	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	116.8	116.8	116.8	-0.1	118.0
241	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	116.6	116.6	116.6	-0.1	118.0
242	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	116.4	116.4	116.4	-0.1	118.0
243	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	116.2	116.2	116.2	-0.1	118.0
244	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	116.0	116.0	116.0	-0.1	118.0
245	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	115.8	115.8	115.8	-0.1	118.0
246	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	115.6	115.6	115.6	-0.1	118.0
247	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	115.4	115.4	115.4	-0.1	118.0
248	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	115.2	115.2	115.2	-0.1	118.0
249	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	115.0	115.0	115.0	-0.1	118.0
250	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	114.8	114.8	114.8	-0.1	118.0
251	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	114.6	114.6	114.6	-0.1	118.0
252	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	114.4	114.4	114.4	-0.1	118.0
253	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	114.2	114.2	114.2	-0.1	118.0
254	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	114.0	114.0	114.0	-0.1	118.0
255	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	113.8	113.8	113.8	-0.1	118.0
256	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	113.6	113.6	113.6	-0.1	118.0
257	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	113.4	113.4	113.4	-0.1	118.0
258	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	113.2	113.2	113.2	-0.1	118.0
259	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	113.0	113.0	113.0	-0.1	118.0
260	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	112.8	112.8	112.8	-0.1	118.0
261	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	112.6	112.6	112.6	-0.1	118.0
262	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	112.4	112.4	112.4	-0.1	118.0
263	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	112.2	112.2	112.2	-0.1	118.0
264	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	112.0	112.0	112.0	-0.1	118.0
265	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	111.8	111.8	111.8	-0.1	118.0
266	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	111.6	111.6	111.6	-0.1	118.0
267	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	111.4	111.4	111.4	-0.1	118.0
268	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	111.2	111.2	111.2	-0.1	118.0
269	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	111.0	111.0	111.0	-0.1	118.0
270	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	110.8	110.8	110.8	-0.1	118.0
271	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	110.6	110.6	110.6	-0.1	118.0
272	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	110.4	110.4	110.4	-0.1	118.0
273	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	110.2	110.2	110.2	-0.1	118.0
274	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	110.0	110.0	110.0	-0.1	118.0
275	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	109.8	109.8	109.8	-0.1	118.0
276	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	109.6	109.6	109.6	-0.1	118.0
277	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	109.4	109.4	109.4	-0.1	118.0
278	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	109.2	109.2	109.2	-0.1	118.0
279	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	109.0	109.0	109.0	-0.1	118.0
280	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	108.8	108.8	108.8	-0.1	118.0
281	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	108.6	108.6	108.6	-0.1	118.0
282	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	108.4	108.4	108.4	-0.1	118.0
283	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	108.2	108.2	108.2	-0.1	118.0
284	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	108.0	108.0	108.0	-0.1	118.0
285	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	107.8	107.8	107.8	-0.1	118.0
286	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	107.6	107.6	107.6	-0.1	118.0
287	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	107.4	107.4	107.4	-0.1	118.0
288	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	107.2	107.2	107.2	-0.1	118.0
289	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	107.0	107.0	107.0	-0.1	118.0
290	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	106.8	106.8	106.8	-0.1	118.0
291	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	106.6	106.6	106.6	-0.1	118.0
292	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	106.4	106.4	106.4	-0.1	118.0
293	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	106.2	106.2	106.2	-0.1	118.0
294	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	106.0	106.0	106.0	-0.1	118.0
295	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	105.8	105.8	105.8	-0.1	118.0
296	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	105.6	105.6	105.6	-0.1	118.0
297	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	105.4	105.4	105.4	-0.1	118.0
298	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	105.2	105.2	105.2	-0.1	118.0
299	Nicor Util	1.00	12	12	105.0	105.0	105.0	-0.1	1



# Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1998

PAGE 20

## WORLD ROUNDUP



The Associated Press  
Fernando Meligeni heading for victory over Yevgeni Kafelnikov.

### Seeds Tumble

**TENNIS** All four seeds in action lost Wednesday in the BMW Open in Munich. Mark Philippoussis, the title holder, lost to Nicholas Escudé 6-4, 7-6 (7-4). Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion, lost, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 to Swedish veteran Magnus Gustafsson.

Top seed Greg Rusedski suffered his worst professional loss, 6-4, 6-0, to German Oliver Gross, the world No. 121. Fellow Briton Tim Henman, seeded No. 4, also won four games, losing 6-3, 6-1, to Swede Thomas Nydahl.

• Fernando Meligeni, a Brazilian ranked 77th, upset Yevgeni Kafelnikov, the No. 2 seed, 6-4, 6-4, in the Prague ATP event.

• Peter Graf, the father of Steffi Graf, was released from prison Wednesday after serving more than half of his almost four-year sentence for tax evasion.

• Marcelo Rios, recovered from an elbow injury, will compete next week in Hamburg, his trainer Manuel Astorga said. (AP, Reuters)

### Bosnia Joins Europe

**SOCER** Two clubs from Bosnia-Herzegovina will take part in next season's European competitions, UEFA announced Wednesday at its congress in Dublin.

Bosnia has three soccer bodies: Muslim, Croat and Serbian. Croat and Muslim teams will enter a six-team playoff. The winner will go into the Champions Cup and the runner up will go into the UEFA Cup. The Serbs have refused to take part. The playoff must be approved by the United Nations Task Force. (AP, Reuters)

### Shallow Thinking

**BASEBALL** Rick Donnelly, Florida Marlins coach, saw possibilities in the swimming pool beyond the center field fence at the new Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix. "They should make that pool in play because it's only three feet deep. Then if a guy hits one in there, the outfielder has to go in and get it. He'd have some action."

"You know how pitchers say, 'He took me deep?' Well, if they hit one in there, they'd have to say, 'He took me shallow.'" (LAT)

## Hungry Wolves Put Sonics' Backs to Wall

### Peeler Powers Minnesota to 2-1 Series Lead

The Associated Press

The Minnesota Timberwolves achieved another playoff first against the Seattle SuperSonics, who have been in this spot many times before.

The Wolves, who won the first playoff game in the history of their franchise

#### NBA PLAYOFFS

on Sunday, won their first home playoff game Tuesday night, showing surprising poise and confidence in defeating the playoff-tested Sonics, 98-90.

With one more victory, either Thursday night at Minneapolis or Sunday back at Seattle, the Wolves can have their first playoff-series triumph. They lead the best-of-five matchup, two games to one.

"It's amazing to be in the situation we're in," said Anthony Peeler, who led the Wolves with 20 points. "But we have to close it out on Thursday."

The Sonics, champions of the Pacific Division, trailed Phoenix, 2-1, in the first playoff round last year before winning the last two games. In 1994, they became the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 8 seed when they lost a series to Denver. Seattle hasn't lost three straight games all season.

Peeler shot a combined 7-for-32 in the first two games, a shortcoming he overcame with 24 rebounds. In Game 3, he was 7-for-15, including 4-for-7 from 3-point range.

That included a 3-pointer for an 83-76 lead with 5:58 to play during a 21-4 surge in which Seattle fell apart and the Wolves capitalized on nearly every opportunity.

"Whenever we get tired, we know they're an older team and we know they're more tired than us," Peeler said.

Kevin Garnett and Sam Mitchell each had 19 points for the Wolves, who have won seven straight at home, extending the franchise record they set by winning their last six regular-season games at Target Center.

Gary Payton scored 26 points for the Sonics, who led by as many as 11 in the first quarter.

"I was disappointed in the defensive end of the court," said George Karl, the Seattle coach. "It was astounding to me that we would be as unaggressive, soft."

**Hawks 96, Hornets 84** Atlanta, after blowing double-figure leads to lose each of the first two games, limited Charlotte to the lowest playoff point total in NBA history.

The Hornets, who still lead the best-of-five series 2-1, tied the record for fewest points set by Portland in a 1996 postseason game at Utah and equaled by Orlando against Miami last year.

"We played to our strength," said Steve Smith, one of six Hawks in double figures with 15 points. "Our strength is defense."

The Hawks, primarily Tyrone Corbin, did a magnificent job shutting down Glen Rice, who averaged 29 points in the two victories at Charlotte. He had only eight points in Game 3 and was 3-of-13 from the field.

Anthony Mason, with 12 points, and

Vlade Divac with 11 were the only Hornets to reach double figures.

**Blazers 99, Lakers 94** Damon Stoudamire scored nine of his 18 points in a fourth-quarter surge as Portland overcame Shaquille O'Neal's 36-point, 16-rebound performance to beat Los Angeles.

Walt Williams scored 17 points as the Blazers' reserves outscored their Laker counterparts, 26-12. Isaiah Rider had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

O'Neal was 16-for-23 from the field, including 6-for-7 in the fourth quarter, but made only four of 12 free throws, including two missed with 59 seconds remaining and the Lakers trailing 94-90.

With Portland leading, 95-91, Eddie Jones threw the ball away trying to get it to O'Neal. Rider put the game away with four free throws in the final seconds.

#### Pistons Rehire Gentry as Coach

Even though the Pistons lost more than they won, the aggressive play of the NBA team was enough for Detroit to rehire Alvin Gentry as its head coach. The Associated Press reported from Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Detroit missed the playoffs and finished 16-21 under Gentry, who took over Feb. 2 after the firing of Dong Collins. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.



Henry Ray Abrams/AP/Wide World Photos  
Alonzo Mourning, the Miami Heat's center in a protective plastic mask, maneuvering past Terry Cummings of the New York Knicks for a shot.

## Heat and Knicks Are Tough to Watch

The Associated Press

The gestures are even, the series is over.

A little more than four minutes remained Tuesday night in the third game of the Heat-Knicks opening-round playoff series when Miami's Eric Murdock sank a 3-pointer and then, while heading back upcourt, very slowly drew his index finger across his throat.

The gesture was premature — New York made one last run and whittled that nine-point lead to 87-83 with 55.9 seconds left. But Murdock could barely contain himself. He was in that much of a hurry to pay back Chris Childs for the same kind of symbolic throat-slashing the Knicks guard performed after he made a big shot in the closing moments of New York's win in Game 2.

"It was something that was stupid. I shouldn't have done it," Murdock said after Miami won 91-85 and claimed a 2-1 edge in the best-of-5 series.

Fans spent nearly three hours watching a game that only disaffected hockey fans would have found entertaining. Before the Heat and Knicks were through, there was more whistling inside Madison Square Garden than outside at a construction site in midtown Manhattan in a week. In between was a nearly endless sequence of pushing, shoving, clutching, grabbing, hacking, slapping, bumping and grinding — 61 fouls in all, nearly split down the middle.

Maybe a tough town needs a tough team — New Yorkers excuse what the Knicks play as "city ball." So maybe Miami had no choice but to play tough. But maybe not. In fact, not even close.

The common denominator, of course, is Pat Riley, who coached in New York before fleeing to Miami, the same Pat Riley who figured out soon after leaving Los Angeles and "Showtime" behind that his future as a coach would depend as much on terror as talent.

The artist that lurks in every NBA coach would love to have a team that plays with brilliance on both ends of the court. But the pragmatist that resides within every coach also recognizes the talent that enables a team to do that — a Magic Johnson, who Riley coached in Los Angeles, or a Michael Jordan or Larry Bird — is in very short supply.

And so what Riley set out to do, first in New York and later in Miami, was fill out his roster with whatever bruisers and hulks, bouncers and punks he could find. Then tell them every opposing player who drives the lane threatens their manhood.

A New Yorker who watched the resulting pinball game in the paint Tuesday night said it reminded him of something former Boston Celtic center Bill Russell used to say. Russell was one of the best defenders ever and never shied away from physical play. But he always made an important distinction: Contact was a part of basketball, but the collisions were the point of football.

Riley, not to mention Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy who, after all, appreciated with the master during his stay in New York. Both seem to prefer a kind of crash-filled auto race on sneakers to basketball. And so the inevitable crackup came to pass in last year's playoff, when the Knicks' Charlie Ward and Miami's P.J. Brown touched off a melee that led to five Knicks being suspended over two games and Miami coming back to win the series.

All that colliding may produce close games thick with teosiodia and drama. But speed and grace and athletic ability, when it shows up, almost seems like a coincidence. The rest of the time, the most compelling reason to watch is to see whether the big wipeout takes place and who gets caught up in it.

That's what the Heat and Knicks are selling. Anybody who doubts that should have been in the locker room Tuesday night when Miami guard Tim Hardaway, a good guy and one of the few real talents on either team, got caught up in the act.

Told about Murdock's mock throat-slashing, Hardaway replied, "He did that?"

But instead of disgust, there was only admiration in his voice.

"Shoot. I wanted to do that," Hardaway said. "I'll do it Thursday."

The Capitals beat Boston to take a 3-1 lead in their series.

The Bruins outshot the Capitals, 38-

18, but could not beat Kolzig, who has a 1.46 goals-against average in the series. Byron Dafoe made 15 saves for Bos-

ton.

**Avalanche 3, Oilers 1** Claude Lemieux continued his postseason heroics, scoring his third goal of the playoffs to power Colorado to victory in Edminton and a 3-1 lead in the series.

Lemieux ripped a hard shot from the right circle that caught the Oilers' goal-

tender, Curtis Joseph, leaning the wrong way. The puck found the far corner for the game-winner.

Peter Forsberg scored two goals for the Avalanche, who got a 26-save perfor-

mance from Patrick Roy. Ryan Smith scored for Edminton.

**Capitals 3, Bruins 0** Olaf Kolzig stopped 38 shots for his first career playoff shutout and Adam Oates, a former Bruin, scored twice as the Capitals beat Boston to take a 3-1 lead in their series.

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mance from Patrick Roy. Ryan Smith scored for Edminton.

**Red Wings 4, Coyotes 3** Igor Larionov, Vyacheslav Kozlov and Jamie Macoun scored second-period goals as Detroit won in Phoenix to tie the series at 2-2.

Detroit's goalie, Chris Osgood, had allowed 13 goals in three games. This time, he gave up a power-play goal to Rick Tocchet in the first period and a goal to Shane Doan in the third, but also had 32 saves.

**Blackhawks Fire Hartsburg**

Craig Hartshurg was fired Tuesday as coach of the Chicago Blackhawks after his team missed the Stanley Cup playoffs for the first time since 1969. The Associated Press reported from Chicago.

Bob Murray, the team's general manager, said the coach wasn't the only one at fault. "No matter how much I'd like to get rid of 25 hockey players, I will not be able to get rid of them all," he said.

"There are just so many you can get rid of and I just didn't think it was fair to put Craig back into that."

**Giants 2, Pirates 1** In San Francisco,

Shawo Estes outdueled Pittsburgh's Francisco Cordova with 6½ innings of work.

But in the 10th, the Astros again loaded the bases with none out with John Hudek pitching before Sean Berry hit a game-winning single.

**Phillies 4, Mets 3** In Cincinnati, Kevin Jordan hit a three-run homer in the 10th as Philadelphia broke its six-game road losing streak.

**Rockies 8, Marlins 7** In Denver, Colorado's Neifi Perez had three hits and drove in three runs, and Dante Bichette had four hits as the Rockies edged Florida.

**Braves 12, Diamondbacks 2** In Phoenix, Tom Glavine (4-0) scattered three hits over seven innings as the Braves improved to 5-0 against the expansion Arizona Diamondbacks.

**Giants 2, Pirates 1** In San Francisco,

Andy Sheets, the San Diego Padres shortstop, tagging out Sammy Sosa of the Cubs following a pitchout. Sosa was trying to steal second base.

Jeff Kent and J.T. Snow each hit home runs, the first allowed this season by Cordova. Estes, a 19-game winner and All Star last year, retired 15 straight after allowing Tony Womack's single to start the game.

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Andy Sheets, the San Diego Padres shortstop, tagging out Sammy Sosa of the Cubs following a pitchout. Sosa was trying to steal second base.

Jeff Kent and J.T. Snow each hit home runs, the first allowed this season by Cordova. Estes, a 19-game winner and All Star last year, retired 15 straight after allowing Tony Womack's single to start the game.

**Braves 12, Diamondbacks 2** In Phoenix, Tom Glavine (4-0) scattered three hits over seven innings as the Braves improved to 5-0 against the expansion Arizona Diamondbacks.

**Giants 2, Pirates 1** In San Francisco,

Andy Sheets, the San Diego Padres shortstop, tagging out Sammy Sosa of the Cubs following a pitchout.

Rejects Cap  
NATO Com  
3 candidates, all  
against him.

SPORTS

## To Pick Derby Winner, Forget the Precedents

But Victors Do Share a Common Trait

By Andrew Beyer  
*Washington Post Service*

**W**ASHINGTON — One horse, Indian Charlie, will go into the Kentucky Derby with a perfect record on his side and history against him.

The colt's route to the Kentucky Derby prompted me to analyze decades of past performances and results to determine whether there are any definitive requirements for winning the Derby. I came to a surprising conclusion.

Indian Charlie, the like-it favorite, has won all four of his starts, but no horse so lightly raced has won the Derby since Regret in 1915. Has he done enough to be fit for a grueling 1½-mile (2 kilometer) race?

It is, of course, a popular pastime to examine Kentucky Derby results and formulate a system to pick future winners. But the logical pitfall in such exercises is that evidence gleaned from races 20 years ago may not be relevant today.

Thoroughbreds of the past were raced much harder than their modern counterparts. In the 1940s and 1950s, horses went through tough campaigns before the first Saturday in May and often had their final prep race in the Derby Trial, four days before the main event. In the 1970s, the Blue Grass Stakes, run nine days before the Derby, was the definitive prep race. In those years it might have seemed inconceivable that a colt like Indian Charlie — with four career starts and a four-week layoff since his last start — could win at Churchill Downs.

"Times have changed," said Nick Zito, the two-time Derby-winning trainer. "You don't have to do all this racing anymore." As American thoroughbreds have become less robust and trainers want to have a "fresh" horse on the first Saturday in May, Derby candidates have been campaigned more sparingly. In the 1970s, the average Derby winner came into the race with 13.6 previous starts. In the 1980s, 9.3 prior starts. In

the 1990s, 9.1 prior starts. Silver Charm had raced only six times before his triumph last year, and Grindstone won in 1996 after making only five previous starts. Given the trends, it is probably inevitable that a horse with only four career starts will win the Derby — and it could be Indian Charlie.

But in the course of studying Derby history, I found one guideline for Derby preparation that spanned generations, applying to the tough campaigners of yesterday as well as the Grindstones and Silver Charms. It is this: A horse must have laid a foundation of conditioning to a 2-year-old to be fit enough to win. The ideal resume for a Derby candidate is to have won, as a 2-year-old, a stakes race at a mile or longer. But at the very minimum a colt must have done something at 2. Here are a couple of standards:

• He must have made his first start before November.

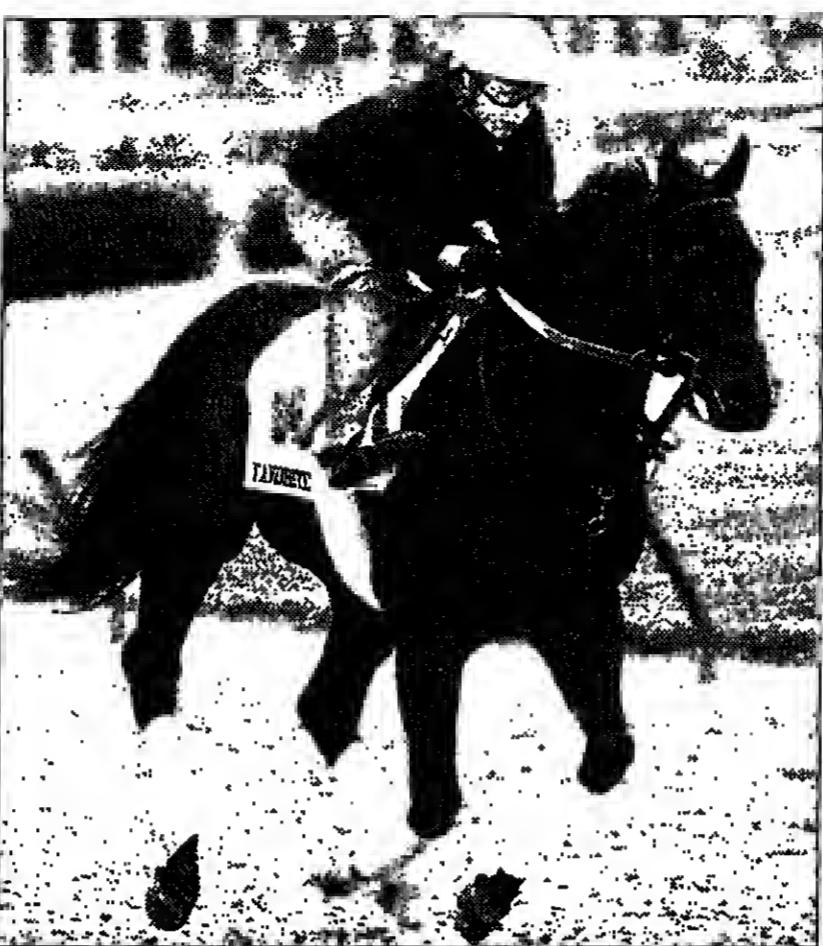
Since 1970, a total of 64 horses have started their careers after Nov. 1 and raced in the Derby, and all have lost, with only three finishing in the money.

• He must have raced at least twice at the age of 2. Over the last quarter century, 55 Derby starters have failed to meet this standard, and all have lost.

Many outstanding horses failed to overcome a lack of 2-year-old preparation, including Forego, Vanlanningham, Proud Truth, Skylanner; Private Terms, the favorite in 1988, and Air Forbes Won, the favorite in 1982. Last year two of the top horses in the field, Pulpit and Crypto Star, failed to qualify under both standards, and both finished out.

The importance of 2-year-old preparation is unique to the Derby.

In an ordinary race, handicappers focus on a horse's most recent starts; races two months ago are almost irrelevant. But when a horse is asked to run 1½ miles in his career, overall conditioning becomes a key factor. (Human runners who have trained for a maratho-



WORKING OUT — Favorite Trick, one of the Kentucky Derby favorites, galloping Wednesday at Churchill Downs in Louisville. Other contenders include Indian Charlie, Halory Hunter and Cape Town. The field was reduced to 15 by the withdrawal Wednesday of Yellow Brae.

will understand this. Fitness comes from months of steady conditioning. One or two hard 20-mile training runs in the month before the race are not sufficient — and may be counterproductive.)

Indian Charlie at least got an early start to his career. He made his racing debut Aug. 3 at Del Mar, and was so well prepared that he won a maiden race by a dozen lengths in fast time. But he came out of the race with sore shins and later needed surgery to remove bone chips in his left front ankle; he did not return to the races until Feb. 22. He proceeded to win two allowance races and then captured the Santa Anita Derby in impressive fashion to establish him-

self as the Kentucky Derby favorite.

Has he done enough? His trainer, Bob Baffert, thinks so. "It would be different if it were a different horse, but this horse was brilliant from day one, and the way I've been training him it's like he's had eight starts. I've been training him for a year; it's not like he's just getting started. His brilliance makes up for his lack of seasoning."

It would be rash for anybody to declare that he cannot win Saturday. But in a game where bettors must always weigh probabilities and odds, a horse hardly deserves to be considered a standout favorite when he is trying to overcome decades of Derby precedents.

## In Italian Parliament, A Ruckus Over Soccer

Reuters

ROME — The Italian Parliament was suspended Wednesday after one deputy tried to assault another during a discussion concerning refereeing decisions made in a soccer match between Juventus and Inter Milan on Sunday.

Gold-braided ushers in the Chamber of Deputies had to hold back Domenico Gramazio of the far-right Italia Social Movement after he tried to rush into the benches of Italy's largest leftist party.

"They are all thieves," Mr. Gramazio was heard to say.

"Clown, clown," responded Massimo Mauro of the ruling Democratic Party of the Left. Mr. Mauro is a former Juventus player. Mr. Gramazio and others tried to assault Mr. Mauro and the session was suspended.

The attempted assault came just after Deputy Prime Minister Walter Veltroni had finished responding to questions about a referee's decision not to award a penalty kick to Inter Milan in the second half when Ronaldinho, Inter's star striker, collided with Mark Juliano, a Juventus

defender. The referee, Piero Ceccarini, awarded a penalty to Juventus shortly afterward, which it missed.

A goal by Juventus in the first half was enough to provide its 1-0 margin of victory.

There have been many suggestions in the Italian media that referees can be influenced by powerful teams. Juventus is owned by the Agnelli family, which founded the Fiat automaking concern and remains its principle shareholder.

Just before the outburst in the Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Veltroni had said that Luciano Nizzola, president of the Italian soccer federation, had promised him at a Wednesday morning conference that the federation would decide by the end of May on "radical" changes to the way that soccer referees are selected.

Cesare Rizzi of the separatist Northern League party had previously said that Italian referees were influenced by "people from above" and called for the match to be replayed using foreign referees.

## Irish Swim Champion Accused

The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Irish swimmer Michelle Smith, bounded by drug rumors since she won three gold medals in the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996, is being investigated over the "possible manipulation" of a urine sample.

FINA, the international swimming federation, said Wednesday that Smith could face a suspension or lifetime ban if she is found guilty of tampering with an out-of-competition drug test.

"FINA has notified Michelle Smith about a sample from a test in January and a copy of that notification goes to the Irish swimming federation," said the federation's honorary secretary, Gunnar Werner. "We suspect it is a possible manipulation."

"I am innocent of these charges,"

Smith said in Dublin. "I am appalled at the manner in which they have been leaked into the public domain." She said she intended to defend herself "if necessary all the way to the international sports court in Switzerland."

Speaking in Sydney during a meeting of the International Olympic Committee, Werner said that no drugs were found in the sample.

Werner said Smith had 14 days to respond.

"It is an open sanction for manipulation so it up to the FINA doping panel to decide, from zero to life," he said.

Werner said Smith was tested in the Netherlands on Jan. 8, the opening day of the world championships in Perth, Australia. Smith skipped the championships, citing injuries.

## SCOREBOARD

### BASEBALL

#### MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE		W	L	Pct.	GS
EAST DIVISION					
New York	15	6	714	.479	
Boston	17	10	650	.455	
Baltimore	13	12	650	.464	
Tempo Bay	11	13	658	.456	
Toronto	10	14	617	.417	
S	11	227	4		
CENTRAL DIVISION					
Cleveland	14	10	593	.471	
Kansas City	13	10	593	.471	
Minnesota	10	13	498	.404	
Chicago	9	14	591	.474	
Seattle	8	15	591	.474	
WEST DIVISION					
Dickson, DeLucia (7), James (8), Holtz (6), Pecival (1), and Wallbeck, Rodriguez (5).	17	10	708	.471	
Tampa	13	10	593	.373	
Seattle	14	13	490	.376	
Oakland	10	14	417	.376	
NATIONAL LEAGUE					
EAST DIVISION					
Cleveland	9	10	564	.464	
New York	13	10	563	.474	
Philadelphia	12	12	500	.375	
Montreal	9	13	346	.348	
Central	7	17	292	.29	
Toronto	6	18	602	.485	
New York	10	10	602	.485	
West Division					
Atlanta, Williams, Sindone (6), Riley (6), Presco (7), Giuffrida (8), Ro Myers (9) and Fletcher (9).	16	10	640	.471	
Houston	16	10	615	.454	
St. Louis	15	10	600	.400	
Chicago	13	13	500	.375	
Cincinnati	11	13	440	.375	
Pittsburgh	11	15	423	.375	
WEST DIVISION					
San Diego	13	7	720	.470	
San Francisco	13	12	538	.454	
Los Angeles	13	12	520	.454	
Colorado	11	16	407	.407	
Arizona	7	20	297	.292	

AMERICAN LEAGUE		W	L	Pct.	GS
Oakland	602	261	600	.49	1
Toronto	597	260	600	.49	1
Seattle	591	260	600	.49	1
Chicago	579	261	600	.49	1
Baltimore	575	262	600	.49	1
Tempo Bay	571	263	600	.49	1
Toronto	569	264	600	.49	1
New York	565	265	600	.49	1
Philadelphia	560	266	600	.49	1
Montreal	556	267	600	.49	1
Central	552	268	600	.49	1
Toronto	548	269	600	.49	1
West Division	544	270	600	.49	1
Atlanta, Williams, Sindone (6), Riley (6), Presco (7), Giuffrida (8), Ro Myers (9) and Fletcher (9).	540	271	600	.49	1
Houston	536	272	600	.49	1
St. Louis	532	273	600	.49	1
Chicago	528	274	600	.49	1
Cincinnati	524	275	600	.49	1
Pittsburgh	520	276	600	.49	1
West Division	516	277	600	.49	1

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TUESDAY LINEUPS					
AMERICAN LEAGUE					
W-D., Oliver	1-3.	L-Mitter	2-2.	H-Ross	Overs (11).
H-Ross	1-3.	J-Cox	2-3.	M-Oates	1-1.
S-Schiff	0-0.	J-Brown			

## ART BUCHWALD

### A Big To-Do in D.C.

**WASHINGTON** — If anyone thinks this is not an exciting town, they should have attended last Saturday's White House Correspondents' Dinner for 2,599 newspaper people and their guests. I wasn't there; I was manning the Starr Hot Line, in case the prosecutor decided to subpoena somebody's mother to appear in front of the grand jury. But Buchwald my friend Arnie Flagg was.

He called breathlessly, "You should have been there. There was electricity in the room." "Because the president and Hillary were there?" I asked.

"No, because Paula Jones was there."

"I can't believe it. You were in the same room with Paula Jones?"

"I was eight tables away from her. Everyone in the place was trying to get a look

#### Miramax Gets Rights To Woody Allen Film

New York Times Service

**NEW YORK** — Sigh unseen, Miramax Films has acquired the North American rights to Woody Allen's latest film, "Celebrity," which stars Kenneth Branagh, Judy Davis, Leonardo DiCaprio, Melanie Griffith, Joe Mantegna and Winona Ryder.

Miramax also signed Lasse Hallstrom ("My Life as a Dog" and "What's Eating Gilbert Grape") to direct "The Cider House Rules," based on the novel by John Irving, who wrote the screenplay.

at her. I never saw so many newspaper reporters go ape."

"I wish I had been there. What makes her the biggest celebrity in Washington?"

"She appealed her case," Arnie said. "She used up

Andy Warhol's 15 minutes of fame, and now she has bought another 15."

□

"Who invited her?"

"Paul Rodriguez, the editor of *Insight*, a right-wing publication, who doesn't like President Clinton very much. Rodriguez was quoted on a talk show as saying, 'If he's guilty, shoot the SOB and shoot him quick. We want him out.' The Secret Service didn't like that, and they're investigating him. But since he talked Paula Jones into coming to the dinner, Gordon Liddy has forgiven him."

"Did they ask Paula to speak?"

"No, they were afraid she'd break down like people do on the Academy Awards."

"Did she get a standing ovation?"

"I don't think so, though she deserved one from this crowd. Her charges have kept many Washington correspondents employed."

"What did the president do?"

"I don't think he shook hands with Paula. Which makes sense since they're legally at odds."

"Do you think Hillary wanted to tear Paula's hair out?"

"Probably. But I believe she promised Bill she would behave herself."

"It's amazing how starstruck reporters in Washington can be. One last question: Is Paula as beautiful in real life as she is on television?"

"Not only that, she's a national treasure."

□

**THE** pop sensation Spice Girls are queens of the column inches in the British press, which has devoted five times more space to them than to any other star, according to a study published Wednesday. The study was carried out by the communications department at Bournemouth University in southern England, at the request of the Madame Tussaud wax museum in London, which wanted to find out whom it should add to its collection. Among the Spice Girls, Victoria Adams (Posh Spice), who is engaged to the soccer player David Beckham, is the most written about of them all. Liam Gallagher, lead singer of another Brit-pop phenomenon, Oasis, is placed only fifth in the survey, behind Paul McCartney, but ahead of President Bill Clinton.

□

The singer Michael Bolton has promised that at least half the money his foundation raises will go directly to the needy women and children it serves. He and his Michael Bolton Foundation were harshly criticized last week after it was reported that less than 15 percent of the \$2.6 million raised by the foundation in 1995 made its way to the people it is supposed to serve. Bolton said the 1995 figures were misleading because much of the money that year went to pay for celebrity fund-raising events. He released figures for 1993 through 1996, showing that of \$7.2 million raised

#### PEOPLE

by the foundation, only about half went to fund-raising and administrative costs.

□

After last year's disappointing turnout, the Godfather of Soul is canning his annual birthday blowout. James Brown had held a birthday concert on May 7 in Augusta, Georgia, since 1994. But last year, the auditorium where the event was held was half empty. It cost Brown up to \$100,000 a year to hold the Augusta concerts. He also dropped plans for a big celebration in Las Vegas and is in negotiations for a televised tribute. "It will be a deferred celebration," his lawyer said.

□

After playing bit parts in movies, Snoop Doggy Dogg may be about to land his first starring role. The rap star is considering "Bones," a film about a ghost who is awakened 20 years after his death to seek revenge against his killers. He has made cameo appearances in "Half Baked," "Ride" and "Caught Up."

□

The Duchess of York says she and her former husband, Prince Andrew, have an informal arrangement to meet their dates away from the home they share. On a television appearance, the talk-show host Jay Leno fished for details of the couple's relationship with

each other and with others. "I live on the bottom floor and he lives on the top floor, and it's great for the children," she said. "We have breakfast together and spend weekends together." Leno pressed for details. "None of this — oops, wrong bedroom? None of that?" he asked. "No, Jay, No, No," she replied.

□

Paula Jones had those grainy snapshots in the April *Playboy*, but Monica Lewinsky is getting the full Herb Ritts portrait in *Vanity Fair*. The California girl, dressed in a black cocktail dress, frolicked for Ritts on a Malibu beach and in the surf around sunset. The former White House intern, who has been under investigation by prosecutors, received no payment for the photos and did not give the magazine an interview, her lawyer, William Ginsburg, said.

□

Warren Beatty hosted a private Washington screening of "Bulworth," the new film he wrote, produced, directed and stars in about a cynical, suicidal senator who has an epiphany in a riot-scarred Los Angeles neighborhood. It is a movie long on profanity, ethnic stereotypes, rap music and huge slices of life at the bottom. "It's about class, race and money in politics," said the 61-year-old Beatty. "This picture needs that vulgarity to grab your attention."

## Rene Magritte Threatens to Unite the Belgians

By Alan Riding  
New York Times Service

**B**RUSSELS — After centuries of being variously ruled by Austria, Spain, France and the Netherlands, Belgium was already suffering something of an identity crisis when it finally became a nation in its own right 1830. Since then, things have not got much better.

Divided between Dutch-speaking Flemish, French-speaking Walloons and polyglot Bruxellois, Belgians often seem uncertain what, if anything, they have in common. No wonder local intellectuals entertain themselves by predicting that their country will soon break up.

But it may not happen quite yet. This year, at least, Belgians have discovered a rare point of unity in the dapper figure of Rene Magritte, Belgium's most influential artist this century. Joining forces to organize exhibitions, publications, television programs and walking tours to mark the centenary of his birth, they have embraced Magritte as the quintessential Belgian, the respectable pipe-smoking bourgeois in the bowler hat whose Surrealist paintings mirrored the absurdity of existence.

Thus Belgians have found that to celebrate his art or the unlikely juxtaposition is to celebrate a nation in contradiction with itself. To accept the artist's refusal to explain his paintings is to be relieved of the need to explain Belgium. Magritte's "This is not a pipe" has become "This is not a country," which is fine, because Magritte's nonpipe was also a pipe, just different.

An alternative take on this year's Magritte mania is simply that, having seen France quietly appropriate many of their French-speaking heroes (from Georges Simenon to Jacques Brel), Belgians are delighted in seeing the French tramping in large numbers to Brussels to pay their respects to Magritte. Then there is the pleasure in recognizing Magritte in everyday life. Not just those of his images that have been endlessly plagiarized in

advertising and the performing arts to the point that their provenance is often forgotten (two new productions at the Paris Opera are full of uncredited Magritte references), but also those visual and intellectual enigmas that are now simply called surreal but were in fact first isolated by Magritte.

Of course, there may also be a simpler explanation: that anniversaries are hard to resist.

Once the Royal Museums of Fine Art decided four years ago to record the Magritte centenary with the largest art exhibition in this country's history, other shows were destined to follow.

"Hommage à Magritte: 1896-1967" at the Galerie Christine et Ivo Brachot in Brussels through May 31 focuses on his photography and sketches; "Rene Magritte and Contemporary Art," at the Museum of Modern Art in Ostende through June 28, looks at his influence on later artists; and "Magritte in Chatelot," at the Town Hall there through May 17, is showing the work he did during his teenage years while he was living there.

But the centerpiece, through June 28, remains "Magritte at the Royal Museums of Fine Art," which is presenting 300 paintings and gouaches as well as posters, cover designs of musical scores, tracts, letters, magazine covers, photographs and home-made movies.

The exhibition is displayed chronologically, starting with the groping steps that preceded the artist's discovery of Giorgio de Chirico and Surrealism in 1925. First came Magritte's encounter with Italian Futurism, which he proclaimed "a revelation" and which led him, as he later put it, to "do Futurism." A couple of years later, he belatedly found Cubism and produced what he described as "a mixture of Cubism and abstract art." But, he wrote near the end of his life, "these experiences gave me little satisfaction."

From 1925, though, he developed the style that, with a couple of brief digressions, would stay with him until his death in 1967 at 80. It was a style marked more by his eye and his mind than by his hand, more by its content than by its technique, more by his desire to disturb than to give pleasure. Today he is considered to have been a competent but unexceptional painter, yet his work remains remarkably popular and topical.

He did not like to be called the Father of Pop Art, and he was right. This show demonstrates that he has survived Pop Art.

The decade that followed Magritte's conversion to Surrealism was enormously creative. Already in the 1925 "Nocturne," some of the motifs appear that would stay with him for decades, in this case the notion of a painting within a painting, a bird in flight and what he called a "billboquet," the carved wooden pole that variously resembled an ornate table leg, a staircase balustrade and a chess pawn.

Other favorite motifs, like the sea and clouds, joined his vocabulary the following year in "The Birth of the Idol" and "After the Water, the Clouds." In "The Musings of a Solitary Walker" of 1926, the mysterious bowler-hatted man, seen from behind, makes his entry, this time standing near the River Sambre where Magritte's mother drowned when he was 12.

In 1927, he became entranced with the double image: the back and front of a bowler-hatted man in "The Meaning of Night"; a man in tails on either side of a door in "Portrait of Paul Nouge," his closest friend at the time, and, in "The Secret Double," where the double is an illusion because what is missing from the face and torso of a woman is placed beside her. All this was relatively simple: Things are not as they appear.

In 1928 alone, when Magritte painted no fewer than 100 works, including the famous hooded images of "The Lovers," he began introducing words into his paintings, invariably meant to create tension between the perception of

the eye and of the mind.

In time, he came to use fewer words on his canvases and concentrated instead on coming up with bizarre titles for his works. A 1930 full-length portrait of a nude, in which the body is divided into five separate paintings, became "The Eternally Obvious."

Amusingly, for a man who never explained the meaning of his images, Magritte in fact spent a lot of time explaining why they could not be explained. "Too often by a twist of thought we tend to reduce what is strange to what is familiar," he said. "I intend to restore the familiar to the strange."

And perhaps unsurprisingly, this exhibition serves to confirm how many of his strange images are now all too familiar: the train emerging from a fireplace, a lamp in a dark street against a bright sky, a green apple filling an entire room, a vast rock topped by a castle hovering over breaking waves, birds growing out of plants.

Less familiar are the works of the early 1940s, in what he called his Renoir period, when Magritte embraced the rich colors of Impressionism as an antidote to the grimness of World War II, and of the late 1940s, when he created his "vache," or cow paintings, as a way of shocking Parisians who in 1948 belatedly gave him his first one-man show.

Magritte kept working to the end, often making several copies or variations of the same work (he did 16 versions in oil and seven in gouache) of "The Dominion of Light," for example. But he never felt a need to apologize; he derived the idea of a unique work of art.

Indeed, near the end of his life, he liked to boast that he had done 1,000 canvases but had only 100 ideas. Nonetheless, 31 years after his death, both his ideas and his images are still being copied, still drawing crowds, still provoking a frown or a smile, even threatening to unite Belgians, which isn't bad for a man who insisted he was not really a painter.

Birth of the Idol" and "After the Water, the Clouds." In "The Musings of a Solitary Walker" of 1926, the mysterious bowler-hatted man, seen from behind, makes his entry, this time standing near the River Sambre where Magritte's mother drowned when he was 12.

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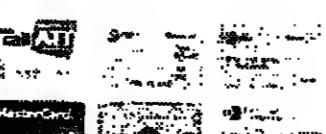
The Duchess of York and host Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show."

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